

Clinton steps up pressure on Havana

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day after pulling in a decades-old welcome mat for Cuban refugees, President Bill Clinton announced Saturday new measures to intensify pressure on the communist regime in Havana. A statement said the United States was halting cash transfers to Cuban-Americans to their former island, cutting off an important source of hard currency for the economically ailing country. Other measures were stepped-up radio broadcasts to Cuba, a cutback in charter flights between the two countries and efforts to seek a harsher international line on human rights abuses in Cuba. "The solution to Cuba's many problems is not an uncontrolled exodus, it is freedom and democracy for Cuba," said the U.S. president, whose country has maintained an economic embargo against Havana for 32 years. The new measures came amid criticism that Mr. Clinton was not being hard enough on Cuba's government while cracking down on refugees Friday and ending a 28-year-old policy of granting them quick and easy asylum here (See page 4).

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Volume 18 Number 5693

AMMAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1994, RABI' ALAWAL 14, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils



Jordan Times

An independent English political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

250 drowned in Bangladesh disaster

DHAKA (AP) — Up to 250 people going home for a holiday were feared drowned Saturday in eastern Bangladesh when a ferry capsized in rough waters in the country's worst such disaster in recent years, reports said. The United News of Bangladesh (UNB) news agency, quoting witnesses and a ship worker, said that up to 250 people may have drowned. But an aid to the local district chief gave a lower toll, telling AFP by telephone that "after about 70 (people were) rescued, we now fear that up to 150 have drowned" when the boat tipped over in a river mouth in Chandpur district, south of here. He said survivors had put the number of passengers on the MV Dinar-2 at between 200 and 300. He said no bodies had yet been found and that rescue workers would find it difficult to ascertain the exact number of deaths immediately as bodies would probably be washed downstream. Most of the ferry passengers were going home for the festival of the birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad. A local official said that about 50 people had been taken to a local hospital.

King condoles Masri family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable of condolences to Hikmat Al Masri and the Masri family over the death of Manzouz Al Masri, a former mayor of the West Bank city of Nablus who passed away Thursday at the age of 65. "I have received with shock and grief news about the passing of my big brother Haj Manzouz Al Masri after a life of work and perseverance for the sake of his homeland and people," said the King in the cable. "As I express to you and the Masri family the warmest feelings of condolences, I remember what the late dear brother has offered in the fields of charity and giving. He was close to the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, and was from the old generation who... shouldered their responsibilities in defending the rights of the Arab Palestinian people. He was one of those who supported their brethren and stood for the unity of both banks of the eternal Jordan River," added the King. Mr. Masri was laid to rest in his hometown of Nablus on Friday.

Palestinians said the incident occurred during a Hamas rally to mark the birth of the Prophet Mohammad. Mr. Zaghari said he was shot while trying to take cover in a shop. "The man who was shot with me has died now in hospital. His family has taken his body," Mr. Zaghari said in a hospital in Ramallah, which discharged him after removing the bullet.

Hospital officials said eight other Palestinians were wounded in the town. The army put the figure at seven and said it could not confirm any deaths. It declined immediate comment on whether undercover soldiers carried out the shootings. Clashes with Israeli

occupation troops have been less frequent in the West Bank since the signing last September of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) accord on Palestinian self-rule.

Much of the focus of Israeli-Palestinian tensions has shifted to Gaza, where guerrillas opposed to the peace deal have been mounting attacks against Israeli troops and civilians near Jewish settlements in the strip.

But Palestinian residents of occupied areas outside the autonomous enclaves of Gaza and Jenicho say they are impatient to see Israeli troops leave.

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Israeli shelling kills 1, wounds 3

NABATIYEH (AP) — Israeli forces fired mortars on a village in southern Lebanon Saturday, killing a civilian man and wounding three women, security sources said. It was not immediately known what triggered the Israeli shelling against the village of Arab Salim on the edge of the central sector of an Israeli-occupied border enclave in South Lebanon. The security sources said sporadic shelling of the village from an Israeli hilltop outpost of Zaffata began at midmorning. At 2 p.m. (1100 GMT) several shells hit the Beidat southern quarter in the village, killing Hassan Musa, 45, and injuring Hassan Hanjou, 45, Afifa Musa, 30, and Moma Hammoud, 28, said the sources. Several houses were damaged in Arab Salim, eight kilometres north of this southern market town, said the sources. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the shelling.

U.N. soldiers clash with Somali gunmen

NAIROBI (R) — U.N. peacekeepers from Nigeria shot dead two Somalis and captured eight others in Somalia on Saturday when gunmen attacked their convoy outside the southern port of Merca, a military spokesman said. "The Nigerians managed to kill two of the attackers and captured eight of them," U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) military spokesman Major Richard McDonald told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone. Major McDonald could not say what UNOSOM would do with the prisoners.

Mistaken identity Polly Peck shooting

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police were searching for a gunman on Saturday in the mistaken-identity shooting of a British consultant at a firm investigating the collapse of the Polly Peck international trading group. David Adams, who works for Polly Peck administrators Coopers and Lybrand, was shot twice in the right leg on Friday outside his office in Istanbul. Mr. Adams, who is not involved in the Polly Peck inquiry, was taken to the American hospital, where he was in good condition. Sources close to the Polly Peck case said the attacker had been making inquiries at the Coopers and Lybrand office about the man in charge of the investigation. It is later mistook Mr. Adams or his intended target and opened fire, they said. The sources also said the head of Coopers and Lybrand's inquiry, Chris Howell, who is giving a sworn statement in the case before a north Cypriot court, had been assaulted by two Turkish men outside his flat in Istanbul on June 7.

YSP unlikely to be in Yemeni cabinet

SANA (R) — The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), whose leaders' attempt to set up a pre-war coalition government

Clinton sees 'steady' Syria-Israel progress

minute details of administration.

"I think we are making some headway," Mr. Clinton said. "I don't want to minimise the difficulties but I don't expect them to be so great as to derail what we are doing."

In a related development, the White House said Mr. Clinton adviser Mack McLarty visited Saudi Arabia this week and would report to the president on discussions with King Fahd. Mr. McLarty was accompanied by Security Council senior director Martin Indyk.

Syria's state-run newspapers Saturday warned that Israel's stand on the occupied Golan Heights and its military actions in South Lebanon could wreck the peace talks.

The newspaper and other dailies said that remarks by Israel's chief of staff, General Ehud Barak, Wednesday that the Jewish state should keep the strategic Golan even if peace is achieved with Syria undermined the U.S.-sponsored peace process.

Clinton also played down what he called "operational difficulties" in implementation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) agreement on limited Palestinian autonomy in Jenicho and the Gaza Strip.

He said much of the problem stemmed from the fact that the PLO had never run a country before, with all its

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Arafat under strong Israeli pressure to amend PLO charter

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is under an ultimatum by Israel that there would not be any redeployment of Israeli forces or Palestinian elections in the occupied territories before the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) charter is amended to remove clauses calling for the destruction of the Jewish state, PLO sources said Saturday.

The ultimatum was served by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in meetings with Mr. Arafat in Gaza on Friday and with chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath in Alexandria, Egypt, on Wednesday, the sources said.

"There was no mistaking the message from Peres," said one source. "He said clearly that the Israeli government insisted on the amendments before it would order any redeployment of its forces in the West Bank and make way for Palestinian elections to a self-rule council."

Mr. Arafat, in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Peres in Paris in June, promised that he would convene the Palestine National Council (PNC), the only Palestinian body authorised to amend the charter, in the Gaza Strip.

However, the PLO chairman, under fire from many hardline and independent members of the 484-seat council, is finding it difficult to raise quorum for the meeting, which will be the first since 1988 when it met in Algeria and proclaimed the State of Palestine.

Many Amman-based PNC members, affiliated with the various PLO factions as well as independents, have mounted a strong campaign to deny Mr. Arafat a quorum

for the proposed meeting in Gaza.

PNC members representing factions such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and other hardliners based in Syria oppose the entire autonomy deal and would have nothing to do with any move to amend the 1964 PLO charter.

The two main reasons publicly cited for the rejection of independent members of a PNC session are that no amendments to the charter could be made as long as Israeli troops remain in the territories that the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war and that the council should not meet in the Gaza Strip under the shadow of occupation.

Many of the independent PNC members are also opposed to the self-rule agreement. It was not clear how many members of the council would actually attend a meeting if convened in Gaza, but activists said it would definitely be below quorum under the present setup of the council.

However, the rejectionists fear that Mr. Arafat might resort to "illegitimate means" to gather quorum for a PNC session in Gaza by unilaterally filling 180 vacant seats in the council by its loyalists in the West Bank and Gaza.

"This will be totally illegal since the PNC statute clearly states that filling vacant seats could be done only at a session attended by two-thirds of the serving members of the council," said a leading Palestinian activist.

"If Mr. Arafat goes ahead and appoints the 180, then that would mean a delegitimation of the Palestine National Council," said the activist, who preferred

anonymity. "But we will fight against any such move and expose the illegality of such appointments."

Mr. Arafat was clearly referring to the problems he faces to convene the meeting and endorse amendments to the charter when he said at a joint press conference with Mr. Peres in Gaza on Friday that "I do not have the right to decide ... it is not my right ... it is against democracy ... that is the business of the PNC ... you have to respect our democracy."

Mr. Peres appeared to deny Mr. Arafat an avenue of excuse to have his own way in convening the council with or without its members. He said he told the PLO chairman that "we shall not object to having the PNC meet in Gaza and invite all its members to participate in the meeting."

That public statement closed the door against a possible Arafat argument that he has no choice but to appoint members of the West Bank and Gaza to fill the vacant seats because many of the members living outside are "blacklisted" by Israel and would not be allowed to travel to the occupied territories to attend the meeting.

"We expect a stepped-up campaign by Arafat to convince many independents to attend the meeting," said a member of a hardline PLO faction. "The obvious approach would be that you are free to say and suggest what you want and seek support in the council, and no one will object," he said.

"But it is not going to work this time," he said. "We have had more than enough experience dealing with Arafat and the PNC. Speeches and addresses go down very well, but when it comes to voting on any resolution, Arafat and his camp will have their way at the end of the day."

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Scientists look inside mummy for clues into ancient ways

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hospital workers wheeled the little Egyptian man in for computerised X-rays Friday, giving scientists a detailed look inside a 2,200-year-old mummy.

"We're looking at the pinnacle of 20th century technology, looking at the pinnacle of (ancient) Egyptian technology," said Smithsonian Institution anthropologist David R. Hunt.

The sophisticated X-rays will allow the scientists to create a three-dimensional image of the mummy, including a hologram, for display at an exhibit being developed for the National Museum of Natural History.

"He's a couple years older than our average patient," quipped Dr. Wayne Olan of George Washington University Hospital. Reports and television crews jammed the corridors for the event, amusing hospital staff and confusing real patients.

Because nobody knows the real name of the mummy, hospital workers dubbed him the "Little Egyptian Man." The Smithsonian staff calls him Minister Cox, after the

U.S. ambassador to Turkey who donated the mummy to the museum in 1886.

Minister Cox — the mummy, not the diplomat — died sometime between 200 B.C. and 150 B.C., aged 40 to 45, apparently of natural causes, Dr. Olan said. There was no immediate evidence of disease or injury.

Dr. Olan said he was surprised at how well the bones were preserved and complimented the sophistication of the Egyptians in preserving bodies.

"The bone structure is very similar to what we see in our patients today," Dr. Olan said. In life, Minister Cox was slightly shorter and lighter than the average male of today but slightly larger than most people of the time, Dr. Hunt and Dr. Olan said.

The mummy came from Luxor but little else is known about it. "If there's any curse, it has been lost," Dr. Hunt said.

He was probably wealthy, and was preserved carefully in a large, decorated sarcophagus. That sort of wrapping and care was reserved for royalty and the rich, Dr.

Hunt said. While the religion of the day required everyone's body to be preserved, poor people were merely "picked," he explained.

Dr. Olan said the only damage to the body is a broken bone in the upper right part of the face behind the nose.

That allowed the brain to be removed, Dr. Hunt explained. The brain and intestines of mummies were removed to help ensure preservation.

Brains were thought unnecessary, with intelligence and the body's essence believed to reside in the heart, Dr. Hunt said.

The heart stayed with the mummy, so that when the spirit arrived in the afterlife the heart could be weighed. Bad deeds were believed to create a heavy heart.

Using the computerised X-rays allows researchers to study details of the mummy without destroying it.

"Mummies aren't as common as you might think," Dr. Hunt said. There used to be a lot of them, but in the 19th century thousands were burned for firewood.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
10:00 L'Instit
10:30 News in French
10:45 Faits Pas Rien
10:55 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step by Step
21:10 Quantum Leap
22:00 News in English
22:30 Snow River

PRAYER TIMES

04:35 Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35 Dhuhr
16:15 'Asr
19:30 Maghreb
20:43 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedid, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Yousif Qaddumi 649633
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Dr. Abdul Hadi Taym 620115
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 756988
First pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 772336
Al Aman pharmacy 637055
Narouk pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacob pharmacy 644945
Stimcissi pharmacy 637660
Narouk's pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBAD:

Dr. Ali Al Omari 272023
Alquds pharmacy (→)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, wind will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Aman 18 / 32
Aqaba 26 / 38

Deserts 17 / 35

Jordan Valley 24 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Aman 31, Aqaba 37, Humidity readings: Aman 43 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6

Ahlih Maternity, J. Ann 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malha, J. Amman 636104

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 894390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 661176

Amman Municipality Complaints 697467

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 787111

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 731111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 633631

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

Rescue 630341

Khalilh pharmacy 983417

Other 636104

Almanar 636104

NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives cables

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received cables of good wishes on the holy occasion of Prophet Mohammad's birthday. The cables came from King Hassan of Morocco, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President of Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh, Tunisian President Zain Al Abideen Al Thani, United Arab Emirates President Zayed Ben Sultan, Palestine President Yasser Arafat, and Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom as well as the Commander of the Palestine Liberation Forces in Jordan Brigadier General Mohammad Qudsieh.

Karak opens first AYF festival

KARAK (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Karak Governor Khalaf Mahasneh Saturday inaugurated the first cultural folkloric festival organised by the Arab Youth Forum. Speakers at the opening ceremony outlined the aim of the festival, noting the various cultural activities conducted by the Arab Youth Forum. The speakers included Ali Karaki, the Karak Minister.

Qatari news agency chief arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatari News Agency Director General Ahmad Hummar arrived in Amman Saturday on an official visit to Jordan. Mr. Hummar, who was met by the director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Abdullah Ettouni, is expected to discuss cooperation between the Jordanian and Qatari national news agencies in exchanges of news materials and training of personnel.

Cement factory management meeting to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Forty delegates representing five Arab countries including Jordan will gather at Amra hotel today to discuss management of cement factory projects in the Arab World. The participants in the four-day meeting, who are all directors of cement factories in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, and Syria, will discuss financial and administrative management and quality control, among other issues, according to the Institute of Public Administration which is organising the meeting in cooperation with the Arab Federation of Cement and Building Materials. Institute Director General Zahair Kayed said Saturday that the meeting, the second of its kind to be organised in cooperation with the federation, is designed to upgrade the factory directors' knowledge in the management of their businesses. He said attention will also be centred on ways to cater to the international quality standards of cement products. Federation Secretary General Ahmad Rousan and Dr. Kayed will deliver addresses to the opening session.

PLA unit chief thanks King

(Continued from page 1)

stories filtering back to Jordan were of a security force that was forced to depend on handouts from the people for their daily bread.

The Associated Press adds: "The voice of Palestine radio, Mr. Arafat's mouthpiece, denied the PLO chairman had ordered the unit's disbandment or refused to pay its salaries.

But in an interview Saturday with the Associated Press, Brig. Qudsieh said Mr. Arafat had sent his office director, Ghazi Mohanna, and Jawed Ghussein, head of the Palestine National Fund, to Jordan with orders to disband the unit.

Brig. Qudsieh said he protested the move, but Mr. Arafat sent him a formal letter confirming his orders.

The army official said all PLA units were asked to submit lists of their members for Israeli permission to enter the self-rule areas with the sole exception of the Bader Brigade. After the 500 left for the territories in May, no officer from this unit was asked to prepare for deployment there.

"Despite all my appeals, Arafat insisted on disbanding the unit," he said. "I had no choice but to appeal to His Majesty to resolve our plight."

In an interview with Jordan radio, Brig. Qudsieh read out what he said was Mr. Arafat's letter to him to prove his case. The letter, according to Brig. Qudsieh, said: "An open leave should be given to all soldiers."

PLO team opens talks today

(Continued from page 1)

meeting between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat.

Parouk Kadoumi, head of the political section of the PLO, said during a recent visit to Jordan that he was "not satisfied" with the level of Jordan-PLO coordination, but did not say who was to be blamed for the lack of coordination.

On the economic side, Ahmad Qouriea, head of the economic department of the PLO, criticised the Kingdom for signing a trade accord with Israel last week. Under that accord, Israel permitted Jordanian exports worth \$30 million to the West Bank this year.

According to Mr. Qouriea, Jordan was seeking to "bypass" the Palestinian authority by signing the agreement. Jordanian officials have made no public response to the charge. But they say in private that the accord was self-explanatory in that it involves the Jordanian and Palestinian private sectors which have to make the necessary arrangements

in coordination with the PNA.

In today's talks, the delegation, whose visit to Jordan was decided upon by a meeting of the PNA last week, will also raise the issue of Palestinian identity documents permitted under the self-rule accord with Israel.

The delegation that will open talks here today comprises mostly of PNA members. They include:

- Yasser Abd Rabbo, minister of information and culture;
- Yasser Amr, minister of labour;
- Mohammad Nashashibi, minister of finance;
- Riyad Zanoun, minister of health;
- Freih Abu Meidan, minister of justice;
- Abdul Hafiz Ashhab, minister of communications;
- Faisal Husseini, minister without portfolio.

Jamil Tarif, a close Arafat confidant who is not a member of the PNA, will also be a member of the team.

Naval blockade of Aqaba to end Thursday

By P.V. Vivekram
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A U.S.-led naval force which has been intercepting all Jordan-bound ships since August 1990 will move away from the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba at noon Thursday when a land-based verification regime is expected to take position at Aqaba to observe the Kingdom's adherence to the international sanctions against Iraq.

Final approval has been given to the arrangement under which the London-based Lloyds Register would maintain a presence at Aqaba with an eight-member team which would work in coordination with Jordanian ports and customs authorities to observe that no Iraq-bound cargo passes through the port in violation of the sanctions, imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The Ports Corporation and Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JAAA), in a joint circular to all shipping agents and other concerned parties, said Saturday that they were "glad to announce that the naval blockade of Aqaba will end as of Thursday."

"It has been officially understood that the offshore inspections by multinational interception forces at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba will cease as of noon Thursday, Aug. 25, 1994," said the circular, signed by Port Corporation Director-General Dureid Mahasneh and JAAA Chairman Tawfiq Kawar.

The circular said that the Lloyds Register, described as an international non-profit organisation which monitors shipping, would take over "the observation of all cargo as of that date, and they will conduct onshore inspection of cargo inside the port of Aqaba... in a manner that will not interfere with the normal procedures of clearing cargo from the port."

The cost of the inspection will be paid for by Jordan, through a levy from Jordanian importers. The money will be paid into an escrow account controlled by the United Nations, and Jordan is expected to claim the amount from a U.N. commission in charge of paying compensation for losses incurred as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent crisis.

Several hundred of the vessels were refused entry while others were allowed in or permitted entry after they were diverted to get rid of "suspect" cargo or rearange



Dureid Mahasneh

charges are expected to be announced at a press conference scheduled to be held in Aqaba on Wednesday.

Mr. Mahasneh, Mr. Kawar and Lloyds Register representatives will address the press conference.

The naval enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq have intercepted more than 20,000 ships since they took up position in August 1990.

Several hundred of the vessels were refused entry while others were allowed in or permitted entry after they were diverted to get rid of "suspect" cargo or rearange



Tawfiq Kawar

cargo for accessibility for inspection.

The circular noted that because of the cargo accessibility requirements of the enforcers, ships were unable to take in full-capacity cargo and were deprived of up to 20 per cent of cargo space.

This, coupled with the delays posed by the inspection, prompted shipowners to add extra freights of up to \$1,000 per 40-foot container, \$500 per 20-foot containers and \$15 per tonne of loose cargo.

However, the positioning of Lloyds surveyors is not

expected to dramatically bring down the freight rates if one is to compare today's costs, shipping sources said.

They said shipowners had gradually reduced the rates in the past few months in the wake of reports that the land-based verification regime was agreed upon in principle.

Washington, which leads the international effort to punish Iraq, agreed to the arrangement in April. Since then only handful of ships were intercepted or diverted. As a rule, no shipping agent would report any such intercepts since the agreement was reached.

One of the best expectations of shipping circles is the possible return of some of the 24-plus shipping lines which stopped sailing to Aqaba as a result of the difficulties and problems posed by the offshore inspections.

Another marked change will be the elimination of the delays and the rescheduling of sailings to Aqaba. With the offshore inspections in place, shipowners had to ensure that Aqaba would be the last port of call for their vessels to avoid delays.

Furthermore, they also had to make room in their schedules for possible diversion of

the ships to neighbouring ports to unload or rearrange cargo.

Saturday's circular paid tribute to the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and their personal intervention to bring about the change at Aqaba.

It described the Lloyds Register presence as a temporary arrangement and said that the Ports Corporation "would exert all efforts to eliminate all kinds of inspections and observations at Aqaba" by non-Jordanians. It also expressed hope for an early end to the "unjust embargo imposed on the people of Iraq by the United Nations."

It was also an indirect reference to the decline in activities of the port and the Jordanian transport sector in general.

Shipping circles do not expect any dramatic rise in the volume of Iraq-bound cargo coming in through Aqaba as a result of the new arrangement.

"For a marked improvement in the situation, there has to be an easing if not an outright lifting of the sanctions against Iraq," said a leading shipping agent.

Mayor reviews strategies at international conference

AMMAN (Petra) — In New York Amman Mayor Mamoud Abbadi told an international conference of heads of municipal councils that during the Gulf war Amman's population was inflated by 10 per cent in two months because of the forced migration of Jordanians and Palestinians from the Gulf states, largely from Kuwait.

The influx of hundreds of thousands of people to the capital led to the emergence of random population settlements around the city and within its boundaries, resulting in an increase in the volume of poverty in Jordan, said Dr. Abbadi.

Amman municipality, he

said, was trying to find solutions to the housing problems by reorganising allotment plans for the construction of housing units, facilitating economic activities for the needy and easing conditions for people to set up handicraft workshops to earn a living.

The municipality has been undertaking these measures in cooperation with the ministry of social development, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development and other social and voluntary institutions and municipalities, some of which are helping to rehabilitate the needy and offer them vocational

training in different trades, according to Dr. Abbadi.

The international conference, which was attended by 95 mayors from around the globe, ended its two-day deliberations.

Conference sources said that a final statement summing up the discussions and offering recommendations and proposals will be regarded as a working paper that will be submitted to International Social Conference due to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, and the U.N. Summit on Population Settlement (Habitat) which is scheduled to be held in Istanbul in 1996.



Sami Gammoh

they were to be adopted now.

These include hikes in the water and power tariffs and structural and administrative reforms in the water and energy sectors. Privatisation of some of the public entities is also recommended by the IMF.

Jordan met one of the most difficult conditions of the IMF programme when it introduced a sales tax two months ago to replace a consumption tax that was in force since 1992. That cleared the last hurdle in the Kingdom's efforts to reschedule its debts to the Paris Club of creditor governments.

An accord with the Paris Club was reached on June 28 after the IMF gave a green signal indicating that Jordan was indeed abiding by the economic restructuring programme.

Mr. Gammoh expressed confidence that Jordan would be able to pursue the same course and register an even better performance in the second half of the year.

According to international financial experts, the IMF and the World Bank often cite Jordan as an example for Third World debtor countries trying to recover from dire economic straits under programmes prescribed by the international economic, financial and monetary watchdogs.

Jordan has complied with most of the conditions set by the IMF and World Bank, but resisting some of the measures saying they would have an adverse impact on the socio-economic structure of the country if

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Iran starts paying phosphate, fertiliser debts to Kingdom

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As a result of talks conducted in Tehran last week by 95 mayors from around the globe, ended its two-day deliberations.

Conference sources said that a final statement summing up the discussions and offering recommendations and proposals will be regarded as a working paper that will be submitted to International Social Conference due to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, and the U.N. Summit on Population Settlement (Habitat) which is scheduled to be held in Istanbul in 1996.

According to Mr. Gammoh

Iran sells Iran an average \$25 million worth of phosphate and fertilisers annually and imports \$10 million worth of Iranian foodstuffs and several other products.

During the visit Mr. Awad initialled an agreement with Iran on future economic and trade cooperation.

Jordan has also submitted to the Iranian government a draft agreement on overland transport to be signed formally in Amman by the concerned ministers in November, Mr. Awad said.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries will diversify products exchanged between them, facilitate the organisation of trade fairs, exempt from customs fees samples of goods introduced for display in either country from the other, and agreed to set up a joint trade committee to encourage dealings between Iranian and Jordanian banks.

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the two countries will diversify products exchanged between them, facilitate the organisation of trade fairs, exempt from customs fees samples of goods introduced for display in either country from the other, and agreed to set up a joint trade committee to encourage dealings between Iranian and Jordanian banks.

He said the Jordanian delegation, which comprised representatives of the ministries of Industry and Trade and Transport as well as the Central Bank and the Amman Chamber of Industry visited several factories in Tehran and Tabriz and inspected items displayed at the Tabriz International Fair where 125 firms from 12 countries are currently exhibiting their products.

Dentistry conference to start

Topics include effects of drugs in treatment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Dental Department at the Royal Medical Services is organising a three-day conference on dentistry at the Farah Centre of the King Hussein Medical Centre next week.

Yassin Al Hisban, the department director, Saturday said that 36 working papers by specialists and pharmacists from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries will be submitted to the meeting, the fifth to be organised by the Royal Medical Services in Amman.

Dental implants, jaw malocclusion, and problems related to the tempo mandibular joints will be among the topics to be discussed by the 300 participants, said Dr. Hisban.

He said that one of the papers from Jordan will tackle the challenges facing the dentistry profession in the Kingdom.

The pharmacists' papers, he added, will discuss the effects of medicines on dental treatment in general.

The head of medical services in the Canadian armed forces will deliver a lecture on the training and recruitment of doctors and nurses in the Canadian army, said Dr. Hisban.

He said that apart from doctors from the Royal Medical Services and the public health sector in Jordan,

the meeting will be attended by specialists and dental surgeons at Jordanian universities and the private sector.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Royal Medical Services will open exhibition displaying dentistry equipment, and the participants will be taken on a tour of the various archaeological

and tourist areas in Jordan, said Dr. Hisban.

Referring to the dentistry department, Dr. Hisban noted that a new dentistry section including a unit for dental implants will be opened at the centre on Nov. 14, coinciding with the King's observance of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

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Cuba accuses Clinton of double blockade on refugees

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuba and some of its fiercest critics have found a rare point of agreement — denunciations of President Bill Clinton's plan to detain Cuban refugees rather than welcome them to U.S. shores.

In a first reaction to Mr. Clinton's move, Cuba's official Prensa Latina news agency called it "a cheap political manoeuvre" and blamed the U.S. economic embargo for the exodus from the Communist island.

Cuban exiles in Miami also protested, claiming the U.S. measure punishes those who had risked their lives to reach the United States.

Many Cubans continued to head out to sea in home-built rafts Friday even after Mr. Clinton said they would be detained at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, Cuba, rather than allowed automatic residence in the United States.

However, at least one rafter who was forced back to shore by problems at sea said the new U.S. policy meant he would not try again.

Reporters in Cuba said they saw scores of people setting out to sea in the Havana area several hours after the new U.S. policy was announced.

Prensa Latina said the new policy was "the payment from Washington for those who trust in the neighbour."

It said the action, coming

on top of the economic

embargo, was "a double

blockade, this one of a cheap

political character, to block

the arrival of those who

trusted in the open-arms propaganda of the powerful neighbour."

Mr. Castro dropped efforts to prevent non-violent departures from Cuba last week after a series of armed boat hijackings and the worst riot of his 35-year rule.

He accused the United States of encouraging illegal departures by tightly limiting legal visas while welcoming Cubans who arrive illegally in Florida.

Cuba's desperate economic crisis had already fed a growing clandestine exodus. The new freedom to leave led hundreds to openly launch rafts from Havana beachfronts for the dangerous 145-kilometre (90-mile) voyage to the United States.

More than 3,000 Cubans have been rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard so far this month, nearly as many as in all of last year and the largest number since 1980, the last time Mr. Castro opened the gates to unrestricted departures.

Some Cubans said the new U.S. policy would not stop the exodus.

"If the people are ready to drown (aboard rafts), the matter of Guantanamo is not important," said a young man repairing a 1951 Chevrolet as hundreds jammed the nearby waterfront at Cojimar. The small East Havana harbour has become a major new launching pad for hard currency.

"The base at Guantanamo isn't going to be big enough," said an older man sitting on the Cojimar Sea wall watching

ing people leave. Neither he nor the younger man gave their names.

In Ecuador, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said Friday that Havana was ready for "serious and profound discussion" with the United States to put an end to the exodus.

But he said, "my country is not willing to continue protecting the coasts of the United States."

Even Mr. Castro's foes in Florida felt wounded by the policy change that could mean long detention for family members fleeing Cuba.

"We have been betrayed," said Leticia Ramos, who waited overnight in Key West in vain for two cousins who left Cuba by raft Wednesday.

"These people have been through hell in the ocean and putting up with Castro," said her husband, Jack Canalejo.

"Now they have put up with all this and they can't even see their family."

Following up on his decision to bar Cuban boat people from U.S. shores, President Clinton is preparing a four-step action plan to increase the pressure on Mr. Castro's Communist regime.

As sketched by a senior White House official Friday night, the actions include "a significant cutback" in payments made by Cuban-Americans to relatives in Cuba, a step that could deny the financially strapped country an important source of hard currency.

The United States will seek further punitive action against Cuba at the United Nations, said the White

House official, who briefed reporters under condition of anonymity.

The official said the details of the actions to be taken were still being worked out, such as exactly what cuts will be made in remittances from Cuban-Americans to relatives and others still living in Cuba.

Some Republican senators

had criticised Mr. Clinton

earlier for not moving directly to punish Mr. Castro for the "provocative" policies that led to an exodus of refugees from Cuba.

But the White House official said, the new policies will speak for themselves and that the president "is moving deliberately and quite sharply."

Mr. Clinton, meanwhile,

met Friday night with Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles, whose state has been a magnet for a recent outpouring of Haitian as well as Cuban refugees.

Mr. Chiles said in a statement that Clinton's policy of

denying Cubans entry into the United States while granting them safe havens elsewhere will save Cuban lives and "lessen the impact

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Pentagon officials said the

Coast Guard will take the

lead in setting up a "picket line" to intercept Cubans at sea who would then be shuttled to the naval base.

Hundreds of Cubans gather on the coast near Cojimar, Cuba, to say goodbye to friends and family preparing to

and avoid a large influx of refugees into the United States.

But it has yet to decide what will eventually happen to those it intercepts.

The new steps to be announced by Mr. Clinton Saturday also include "beefed-up" U.S. radio broadcasts to Cuba and a cutback of flights between the United States and Cuba.

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Drunk policeman who drove wrong way suspended

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — A policeman who drove in a drunken daze down the wrong side of a motorway and caused an accident in which he and four others were hurt, has been suspended from duty, the police prosecutor here said Friday. The policeman, in his 40s, whose identity was not revealed, was off duty Tuesday night when the accident occurred on the A62 motorway near this southeast town. He was seriously injured in the crash and was still too ill Friday to answer investigators' questions. His vehicle collided with another with four people aboard, all of whom were seriously injured. The prosecutor's office denied it was giving the man favourable treatment because he was a police officer. "We are not going to harass him while he is still in intensive care," a spokesman said.

Jimi Hendrix memorabilia auction

LONDON (AP) — Fans of Jimi Hendrix snapped up clothes and guitars of the 1960s American rock star, spending £225,000 (\$349,000) at a London auction. One orange floral velvet jacket sold for £41,800 (\$64,790) to an anonymous telephone bidder, who also bought a striped wool jacket for £20,300 (\$32,150). Bonham's auction house said after the sale, the highest-priced item was a Gibson flying V guitar that went for £50,600 (\$78,430). "It's been amazing," said a Bonham's spokeswoman. "People seem determined to get Hendrix memorabilia at any cost." The seller was not identified. Hendrix died in London in 1970 after taking drugs. The sale total for the Hendrix material was £225,373 (\$349,328). Telephone bids came in from America, where Hard Rock Cafe co-founder Peter Morton snapped up items for his new Las Vegas Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Mr. Morton was the buyer of the Gibson guitar. He also paid £22,000 (\$34,100) for a psychedelic cotton "poppy" jacket from 1967. Other Hendrix guitars went for £14,300 (\$22,165) and £7,700 (\$11,935).

German tourists sleep with decomposing body

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — A German couple slept through the night in a motel room here, apparently without noticing a decomposing corpse stuffed under their bed. Though motel employees had detected a strong odor for several days, the staff put the couple in the room anyway, police said Thursday. The decaying corpse of Bryan Gregory, 47, was discovered Wednesday wrapped in plastic and tucked under a platform bed only after the couple checked out. Authorities reported that Gregory, who was from New York, had a long criminal history including fraud and arson. They just thought it was bad smell. No one bothered to look for the source until it became overwhelming," police spokeswoman Sonya Friedman said. This was not the first time Florida officials have dealt with such a situation. In March, a German tourist in Miami Springs complained of a foul smell, which was traced to the body of a woman under his bed.

Semi-nude Captain fined for being in the news

LONDON (AP) — An adulterous British army officer who twice posed semi-nude on the front-page of a national newspaper has been fined £1,200 (\$1,800) for double exposure, military officials said Friday. Captain Angela Jackson, 35, compounded her modelling offences by telling the paper about her affair with her 34-year-old lover, a sergeant, whom she described as "the best lover in the universe." The Sun newspaper claimed that the wronged husband, a 45-year-old lieutenant-colonel, had threatened to have Capt. Jackson court-martialled if she did not leave her non-commissioned lover. Capt. Jackson complained that double standards were still operating in the army.



Seoul sets conditions on nuclear aid; North rejects inspections

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea said Saturday it won't give North Korea a modern nuclear reactor unless it opens its nuclear programme to full inspection, a demand the North immediately rejected.

"We will never allow the inspection of the military sites at the expense of our sovereignty to receive light-water reactors," North Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

"This is our unshakable will," Pyongyang said in a report carried by its Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"Therefore, we declare once again that we will never allow a 'special inspection,' though we are willing to involve ourselves in clearing up 'nuclear suspicion' in the future," North Korea said.

Its apparent intransigence on the issue of special inspections casts a pall over the U.S.-North Korea nuclear agreement concluded on Aug. 13.

South Korea's deputy prime minister, meanwhile, said Washington ought to help pay for the reactor, an idea sure to rub the U.S. Congress and American taxpayers the wrong way.

Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo linked a

series of preconditions to Seoul's willingness to provide the North with the new reactor.

The government's position is that South-North economic cooperation will be pursued in stages if and when the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved," Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo told reporters.

"Concrete plans to that end will gradually emerge in the course of talks between the United States and North Korea and between the two parts of Korea themselves," said Mr. Lee, who also is the minister of unification affairs.

Pyongyang would first have to fully comply with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, complete dry storage of 8,000 plutonium-laden spent fuel rods and stop building two graphite-moderated reactors in exchange for electric power from the South, officials told Yonhap News Agency, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Later, Seoul will demand that the reactors provided to the North be of South Korean design and manufacture, and Japan and the United States help pay for them, the officials were quoted as saying.

The officials were quoted by Yonhap as saying that while Seoul is willing to supply surplus electric power to North Korea, it will not provide oil, fearing it could be used for military purposes.

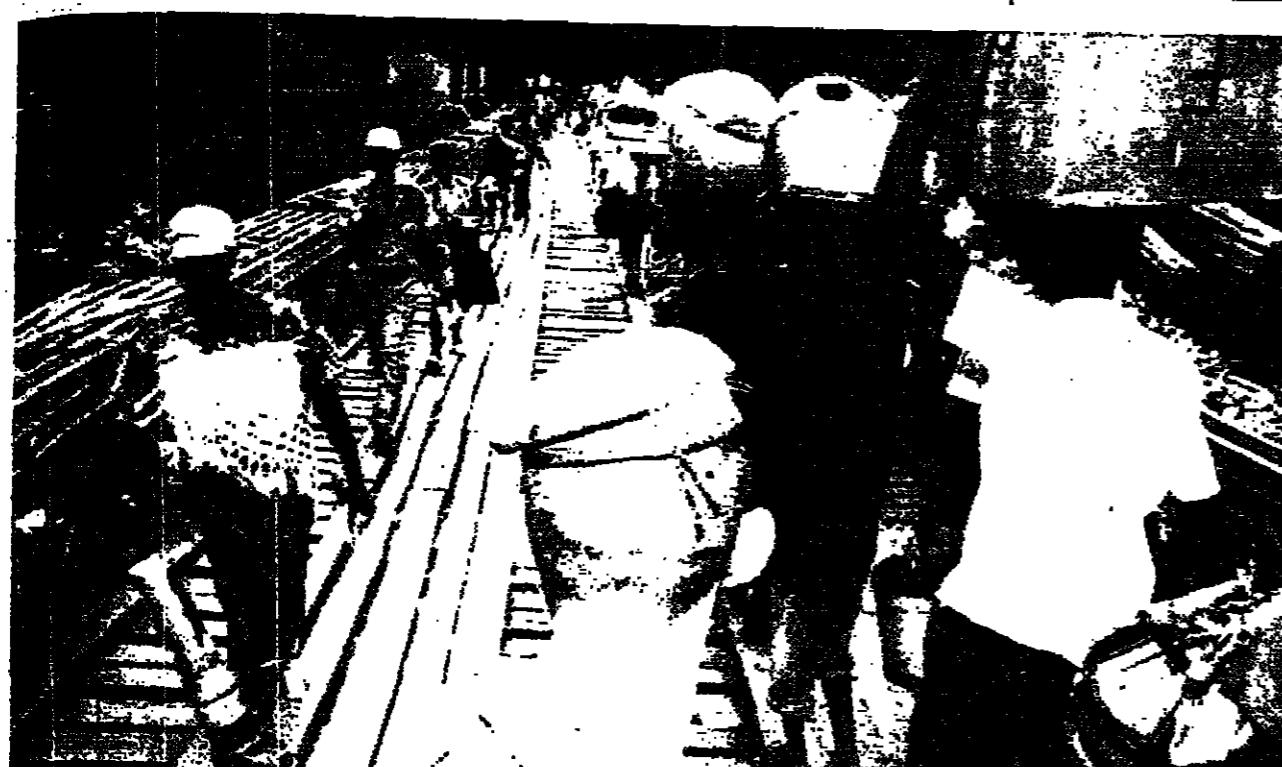
Murayama confronts history on Asian visit

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama begins Tuesday an official eight-day visit to four Asian countries, a trip which may show how well the scars of history have healed.

The main objective for the Socialist government head is to tighten economic links with South East Asia, the primary target of Japanese investors.

But Japanese atrocities in World War II is a subject that won't go away and one

World News



A French Legionnaire monitors Rwandan Hutus crossing the bridge near the Cyangugu border post, heading to Bukavu in Zaire or returning to Rwanda (AFP photo)

Karadzic fights for support against Milosevic

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Fans of American rock and guitars of the 1960s, £25,000 (S\$35,000) London auction, a floral velvet jacket, £41,800 (S\$64,000) famous telephone, also bought a wool jacket, £39,215. Bonhams house said after the highest-priced item was flying V guitars for £50,000.

It's been another Bonhams' day. People seem determined to get Hendrix's guitar at any cost. It was not identified in London as being a guitar. The item was £11,500.

Telephone from American Rock star Peter Morton seems for his new £100 Rock Hotel and £1,000 for a Gibson guitar paid £22,000 for a "copy" jacket from Hendrix guitars £14,300 (S\$21,000).

He planned a mass meeting in the north Bosnian town of Banja Luka Sunday to show Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that he commands the loyalty of Bosnian Serbs in his rejection of an international peace plan.

Serbian-led Yugoslavia, pressuring Bosnian Serb hardliners to accept a proposed territorial settlement with their Muslim and Croat foes, unleashed a scathing personal indictment of Mr. Karadzic and his government.

Yugoslav Federal President Zoran Lilic accused the Bosnian Serb leadership of pursuing the war for personal gain, committing war crimes, sacrificing lives and deceiving their people.

He spoke in the name of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic who has turned against Bosnian Serb leaders in an attempt to end the Bosnian war and lift U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Mr. Lilic spoke contemporaneously of the Bosnian Serb decision to hold a national referendum on the peace plan which divides Bosnia in half after 28 months of fighting and requires Serbs to give up large tracts of territory.

There was no immediate

reaction to the onslaught from the Bosnian Serbs whose telephone lines with Yugoslavia have been cut under a blockade ordered by Mr. Milosevic.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said Mr. Karadzic met in the Krajina capital of Knin with local Serb leader Milan Martic on the immediate unification of the Bosnian Serb Republic and Krajina.

A local radio station quoted Mr. Martic, a Milosevic loyalist, as saying that unification was not a realistic prospect at the moment.

Political sources said Mr. Karadzic hoped to get a warmer reception from hardliners in Krajina who fear Mr. Martic and Mr. Milosevic may betray their attempt to remain independent of Croatia.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Mr. Karadzic would be surrounded by all of his leadership colleagues at the Sunday rally in Banja Luka.

A big popular turnout would be a boost for Mr. Karadzic in his defiance of Belgrade since Banja Luka is not normally regarded as one of his main centres of support.

Mr. Lilic singled Mr. Karadzic out for heavy personal criticism in his statement which swamped the Belgrade press Saturday.

But he also implied strong disapproval of Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) Commander General Ratko Mladic by attacking the BSA attack on the Muslim enclave of Gorazde earlier this year.

The offensive was halted and was getting the better part of the deal.

In the northwest Bihać enclave of Bosnia, U.N. envoy Sergio De Mello mediating terms for the surrender of Muslim rebel leader Fikret Adić who is under increasing attack by troops of the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo.

General Michael Rose, head of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, threatened 30 days ago to request NATO air strikes to discourage fighting.

U.N. military observers reported more than 551 instances of mortar and heavy gun fire Friday alone, said UNPROFOR's military spokesman for Bosnia, Major Rob Annink.

He said both sides were firing from the exclusion zone, adding: "We know that there are some heavy weapons there and we want to investigate."

Meanwhile, NATO planes stepped up reconnaissance flights over Sarajevo's U.N.-declared exclusion zone Saturday as clashes between Bosnian Serbs and Muslim-led government forces intensified.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Effort for new climate

AS THE London-based Baring Securities Limited concluded in a report on Jordan it published recently, the Kingdom has a very good potential for becoming a centre of attraction for international investment if only the government could liberalise the economy and improve conditions for investment. Situated at the centre of the east Mediterranean Arab region, blessed with a modern, though moderate, telecommunication infrastructure and a motivated and relatively educated workforce, Jordan could easily be turned into the Singapore of the Middle East, the report said.

Recent developments in this part of the world and the new dawn of peace are catching the attention of many potential investors, who, like Baring Securities, are looking for fresh markets for international investment. And being the logical gateway to the newly proclaimed autonomous Palestinian areas that need billions of dollars of investment in all sorts of infrastructure projects, Jordan could become the factory for Palestinian needs. Furthermore, the promise of an integrated Middle East region will certainly heat the economies of the region, accelerate growth and enhance competition.

Within these parameters Jordan should not sit idle waiting for the fruits to fall on their own. A great deal of reform is needed.

Unfortunately reform has eluded us for many years. Commission after commission was formed in the past 20 years only to produce no, or little tangible progress. Neither the commissions for administrative reform nor those entrusted with cutting down on red tape has shown real success. In a country in which the state employs almost half of the workforce, the forces that resist change are formidable. Despite the fact that almost all state-run enterprises and services are suffering from inefficiency and bureaucracy, all calls for change seem to fall on deaf ears.

The last resort that we would like to pin hope on these days is the formation of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, headed by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. After the failure of all past governments to effect genuine change, the leadership seems now to be determined to take charge of an awesome task. We hope that the present Royal Commission will not meet the same fate as its predecessors did. For that to happen and for the commission to achieve its aims, we believe that an auxiliary of qualified and visionary Jordanians should be set up to probe work in all areas of government activity and propose immediate solutions and measures to reform both the bureaucracy and the economy.

Perhaps we no longer should believe in the viability of radical solutions. But the urgency and the challenges presented by fast moving developments in the region and world-wide dictate that we take radical steps to put the country on the right path to the future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily newspaper Saturday described the latest round of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations as having achieved no tangible results due to Israel's intransigent position with regard to substantial issues. The talks on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea yielded no positive results and did not reflect the mutual confidence displayed on the part of the two sides at the start of the bilateral meetings, said the paper. It is true that the negotiating process is naturally long and arduous but the Israelis seemed all the time bent on discussing non substantial questions and steering away from the topics included in the common agenda and the Washington Declaration, said the daily. Noting that the Israeli side has clearly deviated from such questions as the borders with Jordan, the end of occupation of Jordanian territory, water resources and security, the paper said that these and other issues constitute the core of the negotiations.

A columnist in Al E'a'i daily said that without the end of occupation in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, there can be no peace in the region. Ahmad Misleh said the negotiations with the Jewish state have so far manifested an obvious intention on the part of Israel to hold on the Arab lands, which means a rejection of Arab bids for peace in exchange for hand and a disregard for U.N. resolutions.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Foreign trade finally on track

THE FOREIGN trade indicators, depicting imports and exports of commodities, were almost the only economic indicators giving negative readings under the economic adjustment programme, supervised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Trade deficit increased year after year, because imports were soaring rapidly, while exports were growing slowly. The gap widened regularly in full contradiction with the targets set in the programme.

Most economic, monetary and fiscal actual indicators were far better than originally projected by the programme, which forced IMF experts to revise their projections and targets in a favourable direction. The performance in foreign trade sector, however, was not satisfactory and those experts were continuously re-stating their forecasts and targets in an unfavourable direction. The updated projections of the balance of payments reflected more trade deficit than was envisaged by the earlier versions of projections.

This weak point in the performance of the economic adjustment effort called for some remedial action. However, it was obvious that a government intervention through the imposition of restrictions on imports will be a blow to the essential principle of the programme which is based on a free market economy, and on the reduction of bureaucratic orders to deal with activities that can be better dealt with by the forces of supply and demand in a free market that can seek its own balance.

It seems that patience and perseverance, despite the temptation to intervene, had finally given fruits. The

indications of Jordanian foreign trade are now giving the right signals. Exports started to grow in leaps while imports slowed down a lot. The trade deficit started to narrow for the first time since the introduction of the economic adjustment programme late in 1991.

Actual statistics of foreign trade, during the first four months of 1994, witnessed an essential change of direction, which will reverse the previous course of development. The change exceeded the expectations and hopes of the extreme optimists.

During the first third of the year, national exports grew at the rate of 25.4 per cent to reach JD232.5 million. Re-exports grew at 146.3 per cent to reach JD72 million, thus the total exports reached JD304.5 million and were 42 per cent higher than the same period of last year.

At the same time, imports increased by a mere 2 per cent to reach JD10.7 million, thus the net trade deficit in the commodity sector decreased by 15.8 per cent, to stand at JD76.3 million. This is the first decrease in trade deficit registered in several years. There is every reason to expect this new trend to continue all through 1994.

The positive change in the foreign trade indicators in the right direction, which took place without direct intervention by the government, is a clear evidence that the right economic policy must give the right results on the longer term, and that the economy must be led more by indirect means without having to revert to unnecessary direct intervention which may backfire or cause undesired side-effects.



The sweatshops for children are unfair all around

By Jack Sheinkman

NEW YORK — Summer is a time when children in the Western democracies look for jobs to earn some extra money before returning to school. But what about the 100 to 200 million children worldwide, who work summer and winter, with no opportunities at all for schooling? According to the organisation Child-Right Worldwide, this number will reach 400 million by the year 2000.

Yet the U.S. Congress may soon agree to put the U.S. signature to a worldwide trade agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, that locks this outrageous situation into place.

While American children are in summer school or at camp, children as young as 3 and 4 are weaving carpets in Pakistan. The International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation has documented appalling conditions worldwide.

In Karan, Pakistan, 5-year-old Shakeel works with 300 other children

from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. for less than 20 cents a day. A sign in his workplace says that any child caught sleeping will be fined \$60. If any of these children cry, they are beaten or forced to spend five days chained to the loom.

Some children in India brandish like cattle by their employers. Last year in New Delhi, an 11-year-old working in a weaving factory had paddafan poured over his head and was set afire by his boss as a punishment.

When the Clinton administration signed the North American Free Trade Agreement last year, it declared that workers' rights and environmental standards were as vital to a trade pact as narrow commercial concerns.

Led by Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, administration officials advocated that protections for these rights be included in the GATT accord. Faced with opposition from countries whose competitive advantage derives from a low-wage labour pool,

Washington did not prevail. There soon, Congress, working with the administration, could agree on a final version of legislation to carry out the accord.

Congress then has 90 days to vote on the bill, with no option, to make any changes — what is known as the fast-track procedure.

By racing to carry out the accord without toughening its labour standards, Congress and the administration are putting millions of U.S. jobs at risk by linking the American economy to those of countries that lag dramatically behind America in wages and work standards.

Supporting the agree-

ment in its current form means supporting the multinational corporations that roam the globe in search of ever lower labour costs and do not want to give up their right to rob children and young adults of their youth.

Thus, setting humanism work standards, as recognised by the International Labour Organisation, is not only the ethical thing to do, it also makes economic sense. GATT should be re-

vised to guarantee rights for children and parents just as law-makers seek to protect copy-right, patents and other rights in the expanded global economy.

If the current accord is approved by the United States and other member nations, there is a way it can be strengthened. After it goes into effect, GATT will put into place a World Trade Organisation to oversee the new trade rules.

This body should include mechanisms to enforce internationally recognised workers' rights, including outlawing child labour, and set environmental standards.

In an era when foreign policy is increasingly intertwined with economic interests, the United States should use its considerable influence to protect American living standards while improving the lot of workers abroad.

The writer is president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

LETTERS

'Stay east, young man'

To the Editor:

AFTER READING Ayman Zanoun's letter (Jordan Times, Aug. 17), I had to write and give a real life account, of a "pursuit of paradise."

A little over 20 years ago, a young man left his home and family search of a brighter and richer life that was only known to exist in the West. After the initial culture shock, he started to pick up the language and the new customs; a year later he could speak and carry himself just like one of his hosts. He was a bright young man, so he was able to compete and do for himself what most would have thought to be impossible for someone of his age and of his background. He ignored discrimination, and tried to pretend it did not exist, he worked double hard to prove himself worthy of what he earns. He was the generous, witty, happy go-lucky immigrant that took as a joke less than complimentary comments made about his heritage, his people and his homeland. He went to school, washed dishes, cooked, sold newspapers, served the host country, taught his native tongue in colleges, managed large construction projects, and tried to live like a model citizen.

However, there was always something that made life less than perfect, and often unbearable. Never was he given the opportunity to feel he was a welcomed addition to the population, and there was always that yearning and need for to be who he really is or was. There was always

something missing, like a need that could not be purchased in foreign currency, or at the local ethnic market.

That young man was myself. I woke one morning, not too long ago, to a news brief on CNN that was telling of the new peace initiatives. I started to remember my home and family that I had not seen in years, in some cases, of newborn, never seen before except in pictures! I also realized what peace would mean. Suddenly, I was filled with optimism and hope for the future, my future, my family's and my country's. Only a few short days later, I was aboard a Royal Jordanian flight back home.

I support and salute His Majesty King Hussein for his leadership and wisdom in the peace initiative. Also I thank citizens like Mr. Ayyoub, and Mr. Twal (letters, Jordan Times, Aug. 15 and Aug. 17) for their optimism and readiness to make this new way of life work for all of us. Yes, I am ready and I am back home. On the dawn of my first morning here, upon hearing the Mo'athin calling for the morning prayer, I got up and prayed, and realised that an emptiness inside me had been fulfilled, when after I was done, eight of my nephews and nieces stormed me like I have always been a part of their life.

In closing, I have one piece of advise for any of our young people thinking about immigrating, "stay east, young man. Preferably, the Middle East."

Nadim Al Jaouni,
Jabal Al Hussein,
Amman.

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1994

Bosnian Serbs rely on West's desire for peace

By Jovan Kovacic
Reuter

grade say.

Bosnian Serb hardliners answer by pointing out that the lifting of the arms embargo will benefit them more than the Muslims, as countries carry out their threat to pull out their U.N. peacekeepers, leaving Muslim civilians unprotected.

"Let them lift the arms embargo, then the UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) goes so we can really hit the Muslims and finish this once and for all," a former Sarajevo sector commander of the Bosnian Serb army told Reuters.

Hardliners count on the ensuing chaos leading to a larger Islamic involvement in Bosnia, with the West forced to mount air operations to keep unwanted interference at bay.

"Imagine Turkey wanting to reinforce its embattled troops in Bosnia. They would have to fly over Greece, Bulgaria, Italy or Yugoslavia. The possibilities for disaster in the volatile Balkans are endless," the commander said.

'The Bosnian Serbs face an angry international community tired of stubborn refusals to accept a series of peace plans drawn up during the bloody course of the war.'

NATO air strikes worry Serb commanders who believe air crew casualties would put public pressure on Western governments to back off.

If they happen hardliners count on air raids causing an unbridgeable rift between Western powers and Russia, a traditional Serb ally. They believe Russia is strongly opposed to lifting the arms embargo and any further air strikes.

The use of air power, the Bosnian Serbs say, would put pressure on Milosevic by aggrieved nationalists, alarmed by attacks on brother Serbs, either to lift his blockade or face political downfall.

"If we do not accept the plan, sanctions against Serbia will remain in place and so will the pressure on Milosevic. If neighbouring countries get involved, or we get clobbered, then he can no longer pussyfoot around with nothing to show for it."

A more expensive, less attractive Petra!

To the Editor:

I WAS sorry to see the Ministry of Tourism increase the entrance fee for foreigners into Petra by 400 per cent to JD20 beginning September 1. At a time when Jordan has the potential to see a dramatic influx of visitors on the heels of ever-promising peace, this move may backfire, and prove yet another blow to a sector of the country's economy which could be a major source of revenue in the coming few years.

Would it not have been better to make a moderate increase, say to JD10? For me to take my family of 5 will now cost a minimum of JD100, excluding horses and food, which would add another JD60-70. To spend almost \$250 for a day at Petra makes that magnificent wonder considerably less attractive, not only to me, but also to many foreigners.

I hope the ministry reconsider the steep rise it is poised to command. As a member of the Petra National Trust, and one who cherishes its marvellous splendour and beauty, there must be better alternatives in the drive to boost tourism while preserving these sites.

Kirk Albrecht,
Amman.

Serbs
West's
peace
acc

Reproductive choice seen as key to population control

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) last week released its annual report which championed the freedom of reproductive choice, empowerment of women and stressed the importance of reproductive health and the long-term policies which would render sustainable development and economic growth possible in the developing world.

The report, which basically stresses population control, is well timed to complement the opening in less than two weeks of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo on Sept. 5.

The UNFPA notes that the world population had reached 5.6 billion people by mid-1994, with an average annual increase of 94 million. Over half the growth is taking place in the poorest countries of Asia and Africa. Nearly all of the increase is in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The UNFPA's declared goal is to create a balance between population growth and the world's ability to care and feed its people.

The alleviation of poverty, an improvement of food supplies, an end to malnutrition and providing adequate housing are among the actions that according to UNFPA report, will induce a "balanced population growth."

The issue of choice

Among the main themes of the UNFPA's report and one of the main subjects to be tackled at the September conference is the empowerment of women. Women's empowerment is considered by many development agencies to be the key to social progress, which incorporates "population related problems."

By empowerment, the UNFPA means 1) equality under the law 2) equal access to education, 3) jobs and 4) quality reproductive health care.

Empowerment is a series of interrelated choices in areas of family planning which can lead to improved health for women as well as a wide range of options related to education, marriage, employment, housing and migration.

"Ensuring free choice in the matter of family size would slow population growth to a rate more compatible with sustained and sustainable economic growth," states the report.

At the moment a target group of some 350 million couples worldwide that are not using modern contraceptive means have been identified, says UNFPA report.

"Encouraging and supporting women's growing command of the means to manage their own fertility is a matter for national governments and the international community."

At present, the UNFPA estimates that three quarters of all couples in the industrialised world as well as over half of the population in developing nations make use of family planning or contraceptives.

The disparity between the industrialised and developing world is great and there are immense national and regional differences. Seventy-five per cent of the couples in the industrialised countries are using modern forms of contraceptives whereas only 55 per cent of women in the developing world are using them.

And even within the developing world the contrasts are striking; they range from Niger where a cross national survey indicated that 4 per cent of the women of child bearing age were using contraceptive methods to Korea where 77 per cent of the female population was using contraceptives.

Health

The UNFPA states that while there are means to facilitate making "choice" available to women, access to health care, partici-

larly reproductive health care, is still inadequate in the vast majority of developing countries.

The UNFPA believes that some 120 million women wish to use modern contraceptives but do not have access to them.

According to the UNFPA report, pregnancy and pregnancy related complications claim the lives of half a million women annually. "Every minute of the day a woman dies from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth."

The main cause for the high percentage of female mortality is considered to be lack of adequate reproductive/pre-natal health care, family planning and services rendering family planning possible.

To prove the point, UNFPA cites figures comparing mortality rates for women, as a result of pregnancy, in Europe, North America and Japan to those of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"Virtual no lives are lost" in the former regions as a result of pregnancy, states the report, whereas in Asia, Africa and Latin America the lives of 500,000 women are claimed.

Women living in the former regions have almost universal access to reproductive health care, family planning and services whereas women living in the latter do not.

The report defines successful population programmes as policies that "integrate family planning with other reproductive health services, including treatment of infertility, reproductive tract infections, HIV/AIDS and a wide range of sexually transmitted diseases."

The women's percentage of HIV victims has risen from 20 per cent to 40 per cent globally, with the vast majority of the affected women living in the developing countries. In North America and Eastern Europe, HIV affected men still outnumber women by a large margin.

The single greatest health disparity between the developing and industrialised worlds remains maternal mortality rates. A woman in the developing world is 13 times as likely to die as a result of pregnancy or during childbirth as a woman in the industrialised world.

According to UNFPA estimates, 5 million women fall ill as a result of childbirth or pregnancy because they are either too young or too old to endure a safe pregnancy, because they had too many children or because the birth spacing was not conducive to maintaining adequate maternal health care.

Empowerment is a series of interrelated choices in areas of family planning which can lead to improved health for women as well as a wide range of options related to education, marriage, employment, housing and migration.

"Ensuring free choice in the matter of family size would slow population growth to a rate more compatible with sustained and sustainable economic growth," states the report.

At the moment a target group of some 350 million couples worldwide that are not using modern contraceptive means have been identified, says UNFPA report.

"Encouraging and supporting women's growing command of the means to manage their own fertility is a matter for national governments and the international community."

At present, the UNFPA estimates that three quarters of all couples in the industrialised world as well as over half of the population in developing nations make use of family planning or contraceptives.

The disparity between the industrialised and developing world is great and there are immense national and regional differences. Seventy-five per cent of the couples in the industrialised countries are using modern forms of contraceptives whereas only 55 per cent of women in the developing world are using them.

And even within the developing world the contrasts are striking; they range from Niger where a cross national survey indicated that 4 per cent of the women of child bearing age were using contraceptive methods to Korea where 77 per cent of the female population was using contraceptives.

Poverty and gender discrimination

According to the UNFPA, "recent findings con-

test the view that poverty is the main barrier to increased use of family planning."

Poverty induced ignorance and lack of choice and services, often for lack of financial means, prevent millions of women from benefiting from basic health care.

According to UNFPA, gender discrimination in nutrition and health care from childhood in many societies still place women in the "second class" citizenship category.

As a result, women still die younger than men in many regions of the developing world.

Cultural factors and widespread perceptions that male children present a long-term economic benefit for the family, while female children are economic burdens, are the primary factors why a strong preference for male children over female children was found in Bangladesh, Jordan, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Syria.

Education

One of the prime targets of the UNFPA and the ICPD in Cairo will be to link education with improved status of women and ultimately to greater "balanced sustainable development."

"Educated women is an investment in sustainable development," the UNFPA report says. "Educated women command better jobs and salaries, marry later and have their first child later."

The role of education in enhancing women's social power is undisputed, the report states. According to the UNFPA, education will influence the number of children women have at what age and how they are spaced.

One example, cited by the report is Zimbabwe. It was found that women in Zimbabwe with no formal education have an average of seven children, women with some primary education have six children, while women with secondary or higher education have, on the average, fewer than four children.

The result is healthier mothers, healthier children and fewer children.

The aim of the ICPD will be to find ways to fulfil human rights, needs and aspirations, while fostering sustainable use of resources and a diverse and vigorous natural environment.

Promoting equity between the genders will be an important aim of the conference. The main aim of the conference will be to discuss possibilities and viabilities of promoting birth control and putting a halt to the population explosion in the developing world.

At the conference, examples of what the UNFPA calls "success stories" will be cited to encourage other developing nations to adapt new governmental health and educational policies.

The Zimbabwe example will be one of several "success stories" cited as proof that governments' investments in population policies can be effective. The UNFPA report cites Zimbabwe as an example of a country where integrated policies have had an impact.

The UNFPA measured success of the integrated policy according to referring to a decrease in number of births. The average woman in Zimbabwe had eight children in the late 1960s. Today the average woman has 5.4. About 43 per cent of married women in Zimbabwe use a modern method of family planning or birth control methods.

One of the main methods used in efforts to reduce birth rates in Zimbabwe has been education of both male and female. There is universal access to education and an increase in literacy.

It is estimated that as many as 780 million people are undernourished in developing countries. This is a new blow to average people who have seen living conditions decline relentlessly since U.N. sanctions — which ban oil exports and imports other than food and medicine —



Picture dated August 1944 of a Parisian fireman taking a photo of General Charles de Gaulle (centre in uniform), leader of the Free French, marching down the Champs Elysées after Paris liberation (AFP photo)

Who saved Paris? 50 years later, the debate goes on

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

PARIS — At a time when the Allied and Nazi war machines laid waste to cities in their paths, Paris was liberated with monuments intact. Fifty years later, debate continues on who deserves the thanks.

"It's the Americans who liberated Paris," said Charles Leger, 48, who owns the Rose Cafe on a street in central Paris where some of the heaviest fighting took place. Many American veterans agree.

But a former resistance fighter or veteran of the French 2nd Armoured Division who fought to redeem four years of humiliating occupation will claim the most credit. Hundreds of resistance fighters and French soldiers died in the battle for Paris.

This year, officials will mark the German surrender of Paris on Aug. 25, 1944, with a dramatic procession by 2,000 actors, fireworks and a dance on the Place de la Concorde.

On Aug. 26, 8,000 schoolchildren from across France will reenact the historic walk by Gen. Charles de Gaulle down the liber-

ated Champs-Elysees.

The liberation was an almost comic, and nearly tragic, combination of in-subordination by Germans and French alike — a race between Allied and German reinforcements approaching the city, an orgy of celebration during and after the battle.

It was rich in political intrigue: De Gaulle elbowed past Communist resisters and collaborationist Vichy rulers, seeking to establish himself as the leader of postwar France and win over sceptics in Washington.

U.S. reluctance to recognise De Gaulle, called an "egoist" by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and U.S. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's decision to delay the liberation of Paris helped set the tone of relief that still remains testy.

This year, officials will mark the German surrender of Paris on Aug. 25, 1944, with a dramatic procession by 2,000 actors, fireworks and a dance on the Place de la Concorde.

On Aug. 26, 8,000 schoolchildren from across France will reenact the historic walk by Gen. Charles de Gaulle down the liber-

ated Champs-Elysees.

By August 1944, two months after the landings in Normandy, the Allies were about 100 kilometres from Paris. Eisenhower chose a pincer-like strategy to encircle the capital and force a German surrender without the costly urban warfare that had leveled St. Lo, Cherbourg and Caen.

But the people grew im-

patient in Paris, where butter cost \$10 a pound, electricity was on only two hours a day and D-Day had raised hopes.

The Germans had gone

stepped down the Champs Elysees more than 1,500 days. On the Eiffel Tower hung a huge "V" sign the Nazis borrowed from the Allies, accompanied by the declaration that "Deutschland siegt auf allen fronten" ("Germany is winning on all fronts").

On Aug. 19, resisters armed with guns and gasoline bombs launched their uprising. They took a beating from German tanks.

Hitler ordered Gen. Dietrich von Choltitz, the Paris commander, to mine bridges and other sites. He was quoted as ordering the general to leave nothing but ruins, as Allied bombers were doing to German cities.

On Aug. 26, De Gaulle arrived and, as he knew that the war was lost (and realised that Hitler was a very sick man), his widow, Uberta, said by telephone from her home in Baden-Baden, Germany.

De Gaulle, afraid a resistance victory in Paris would freeze him out, sent

a note to Eisenhower threatening to send in the French 2nd armoured whether the Allies agreed or not.

On Aug. 26, De Gaulle

strode down the Champs Elysees to a wild welcome from Parisians. "The liberation really legitimised him," Compagnon said.

Three days later, Eisenhower arrived and American troops paraded down the Champs Elysees before marching off to fight Germans north of the city.

"What I wanted was to see the situation in Paris under control, and as far I was concerned De Gaulle was the best man to do that," Eisenhower wrote. "That's the effect I wanted and that's the effect I got."

Iraq in race between collapse and lifting sanctions

By Jack Redden
Reuter

BAKHDAH — On one side Iraqi President Saddam Hussein presides over a sinking economy, where children beg on the streets and inflation has pushed much of the population into poverty.

On the other, President Hussein sees foreign governments questioning the U.S. determination to keep Iraq isolated and the arrival of increasing numbers of businessmen anxious to renew trade.

"Now it is a race," said a diplomat.

The quickening pace has become clear in recent months, with people wondering what will end first: President Hussein's hold on power or the U.N. oil embargo that has hobbled Iraq for four years.

The pressure showed in President Hussein's decision to take public control of the economy two months ago and issue decrees to slow inflation and conserve hard currency needed for vital imports.

His imposition of price controls had a predictable effect — tomatoes and potatoes have disappeared from public markets but can usually be found on the blackmarket for prices of two or three times the official level.

This is a new blow to average people who have seen living conditions decline relentlessly since U.N. sanctions — which ban oil exports and imports other than food and medicine —

were imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait four years ago.

"When I came in September 1990 I did not find street children," said Subhash Das-Gupta, UNICEF chief in Baghdad. "They have gone from selling to begging, the next stage — crime — is not far off."

That is the human face to grim statistics, such as the 20 per cent of elementary school children who Mr. Das-Gupta estimates are no longer attending classes.

A country that had a respected health care system before the invasion of Kuwait is now battling rising rates of everything from cholera to malaria.

"Initially Iraqis were very proud, they refused everything," said Bassam Qasem, an epidemiologist at the U.N.'s World Health Organisation (WHO) office. "Now they accept anything."

Figures used by the WHO show that by last February the frequency of low birth weight in Basra, deep in the south of Iraq, was nearly five times the rate reported in 1990.

That finding, reflecting the mothers' poor nutrition, helps explain why the WHO says the death rate for those under five years is now nearly seven times the 1989 level.

Deaths are also explained by a deterioration in drinking water blamed on breakdowns in water systems and a lack of gas chlorination.

WHO said tests in June showed 20 per cent of Baghdad's water was con-

taminated — better at least than the 34 per cent figure for Basra.

The government has tried to ease hardships through a ration system that provides about 70 per cent of daily food needs. But the estimated \$1 billion a year in a foreign currency to finance food imports is now in question.

No one knows if Iraq is near exhausting its funds hidden abroad or is just taking precautions in case sanctions are prolonged, but an effort to conserve hard currency is clear.

Since becoming prime minister as well as president two months ago, President Hussein has imposed high exit taxes to discourage travel and added 91 products from shampoo to fish to a list of banned imports.

Diplomats have been ordered to change licence plates, with fees paid in dollars.

At home he has acknowledged a crime wave by ordering Islamic law for car theft — cutting off the thief's hand. So far there is no indication it has been carried out, or had any effect.

But President Hussein's hopes rest on international politics, not orders that have no influence over Iraq's main problem, the ban on oil exports that produce its foreign income.

He has been buoyed by growing doubts about the refusal of London and Washington to consider lifting the oil embargo until Iraq obeys Gulf war U.N. resolutions that go far

beyond recognising Kuwait and destroying weapons of mass destruction.

Arab Gulf states' private sector set for big leap

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The private sector in Arab Gulf states is set to play a major role in the domestic development as low oil prices are forcing governments to loosen their grip on the economy and step up offset programmes to attract foreign technology, economists in the region said Friday.

After decades of heavy reliance on government spending, the private sector in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has started to flex its muscles by entering joint ventures with the state or setting up its own viable projects, taking advantage of the increasing government incentives.

"After the oil boom of late 1970s, you can say the GCC countries are now entering a new era, which I call the private sector's boom," a Gulf economist said. "The process is slow and but I

think this will ensure its success."

Most GCC states have announced major privatisation plans and enforced offset programmes, under which exporters must reinvest part of their deals in the importing country in participation with the private sector.

Officials said such programmes would help member states acquire technology needed to diversify their economy and lessen reliance on unstable oil earnings, which still account for more than 80 per cent of their total income.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, was the first GCC nation to introduce the offset system, which applies on both military and civilian contracts. The system has attracted billions of dollars in industrial and other investments since it was enforced nearly 15 years ago.

In an attempt to attract

Saudi Arabia's latest major offset deal was with U.S. telecommunication giant AT&T under a \$4 billion contract they signed last week to expand the kingdom's telephone network by adding 1.5 million lines.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) also enforced offset programmes on its military purchases and is considering including civilian deals. The other GCC members — Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — have offset programmes on certain deals but they are planning to expand the system.

The UAE's biggest offset deal was with the French Giat Industries, which has already set up offices in Abu Dhabi to supervise nearly 20 industrial, farming and communication projects it plans to set up with the private sector.

In an attempt to attract

more offset partners, the UAE this month signed an agreement with the U.S. Chase Manhattan Bank which will assist foreign companies seeking to invest in the local market as part of their offset commitment.

The agreement will likely give birth to a giant company with a capital of \$1 billion to be subscribed by local and foreign investors.

Potential investors can buy shares in the company, which in turn will invest in the local market, the official news agency WAM said Friday.

"Offset ventures must lead to commercially viable activities which are competitive in terms of price, quality and delivery within the local and preferably, world markets," the UAE offset group said in a statement. "They must also be capable of being sustained in the longer term without recourse to special levels of

government support."

Experts said potential investors would be tempted by the flexibility of GCC offset rules, cheap energy and labour, and the location of the region in a vast consumer market of more than one billion people.

Another factor is the enormous potential of the private sector, which has more than \$160 billion in overseas assets, they said.

"The private sector in the GCC still accounts for less than 40 per cent of the economy. But it is poised for a sharp growth as there is a growing realisation by governments that it can play a key role in offsetting their financial difficulties caused by low oil prices," one expert said.

Low oil prices have pushed down the earnings of GCC states to around \$70 billion a year from more than \$180 billion in 1981. This has created a persistent deficit in their budgets and forced them to trim spending, triggering a sharp slowdown in the economy.

With prices expected to remain low in the near future, they turned to the private sector. Oman has launched large-scale reforms while Kuwait plans to sell some public institutions at a value of \$13.36 billion and the UAE and Bahrain are charting reform plans.

But the region's biggest privatisation drive is expected to take place in Saudi Arabia, which has announced plans to sell a wide range of government facilities. On Wednesday, the government said it would soon start selling more than half of its 70 per cent stake in its petrochemical giant, SABIC, which has a capital of two billion riyals (\$533 million).

Swedish opposition launches sharp austerity plan

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's opposition Social Democratic Party, responsible for building one of the world's most advanced welfare states, said Friday it would cut benefits if it wins a general election next month.

The centre-left party, tipped in opinion polls to win the Sept. 18 election, revealed a plan to save 61 billion crowns (\$7.6 billion) over the next four years through higher taxes and cuts in welfare benefits.

Describing Sweden as a country in deep crisis, party leader Ingvar Carlsson said the comprehensive welfare state could only be maintained by reducing massive debt and a bulging budget deficit.

He said his party's measures would increase the national tax take by 27.4 billion crowns (\$3.4 billion) and slash state expenditure by 33.6 billion crowns (\$4.2 billion) between 1994 and 1998.

Mr. Carlsson said Sweden faced more expensive health care, higher wealth and assets tax and reduced child benefits. Defence spending would be cut sharply too, he added.

"This is no plan, this is reality, it will be carried out," opposition finance spokesman Goran Persson told a news conference.

Financial markets in Sweden had closed by the time the Social Democrats announced their manifesto. However, leaks earlier in the day about the economic programme sparked a minor recovery in the crown and a fall

in interest rates.

The crown plummeted and interest rates have soared in the past week as markets

speculated that the Social Democrats would ignore Sweden's fiscal problems and seek to spend their way out of trouble.

"These are very solid mea-

sures. We have not seen this

so far in the election cam-

paign," said Lars Heiken-

sten, chief economist at

Svenska Handelsbanken.

Mr. Carlsson said: "Our

goal for the next four years is

to get growth under way,

reduce unemployment, cre-

ate healthy state finances and

stabilise state debt as well as

maintaining the welfare state.

He said unemployment

would be the Social Demo-

crats' top priority. "We want

to prevent young people

being without work for more

than 100 days," he said, with-

out elaborating. Officials said

the party would launch mas-

sive youth employment pro-

grammes to carry out this

pledge.

In a clear hint that taxes on

medium and high earners will

be increased, Mr. Carlsson said

"those in work and with good incomes must bear the heaviest burden."

He said a Social Democrat

government would not intro-

duce any legislation that

caused a deterioration in

state finances.

"We ask for voter's

approval to carry out pro-

gramme to increase growth,

get unemployment down, sta-

bilise the economy and main-

tain the welfare state," Mr.

Carlsson said.

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Macro-economic planning in China is being seriously hampered by ambitious officials who falsify statistics to obtain promotion, the official People's Daily has said in a front-page commentary.

According to the newspaper, a large number of officials across the country are turning in falsified economic data for industrial output, investment and per capita income, as well as bogus population figures.

The trend has grown in recent years which the practice of awarding bonuses or promotions to cadres who can claim major successes in implementing central socio-economic policies in their areas.

Falsifying socio-economic data runs the risk of incorrect policies being adopted by the central government, distances cadres from the mas-

ses and "damages the ties

between the party, the government and the people," it said.

While most bogus reports

exaggerate output figures,

some officials also under-

value per capita income sta-

tistics by adjusting its statistical evaluation

methods to minimise the im-

pact of exaggerated output

figures.

Others fabricate birth reg-

istration statistics to make

sure their locality is not seen

to have exceeded population

targets laid out in China's

strict family planning policy.

Such actions not only

"seriously violate the official

facts" but also violate the law

and should be treated as cor-

ruption," the newspaper said.

On Monday, the govern-

ment said it would clamp

down on rural enterprises

providing misleading per-

formance figures by adjusting

its statistical evalua-

tion methods to minimise the im-

pact of exaggerated output

figures.

The reported 45 per cent

increase in output value in

the first half of 1994 com-

pared with the same period

last year concealed the fact

that many township and vil-

lage enterprises — the corner-

stone of China's rural eco-

nomic policy — are being

pushed into the red or even

to bankruptcy by cash short-

ages and tax hikes.

concessions would raise this to 31 billion rand (\$8.68 billion) a year.

Mr. Fouere said the package was an interim measure, as the EU proposed to include South Africa in a new, overhauled generalised system of preferences concession trade scheme to be implemented in January.

This would entitle South Africa to the same favourable treatment as other eligible countries in Africa, South America, Asia and eastern Europe.

With the inclusion, hopefully, of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden in the EU from January, South African exporters could set their sights on the largest free trade area in the world with a market of 375 million people, Mr. Fouere said.

The EU is already South Africa's largest trade partner as well as its largest foreign

investor, although ties were

strained by years of anti-

apartheid sanctions preced-

ing the country's first-all-race

elections in April.

Two-way trade, in which

the EU absorbs 40 per cent of

South Africa's exports, rose

8.7 per cent last year to 40.29

billion rand (\$11.29 billion).

In the first four months of

1994, as democracy dawned,

South African exports to the

EU rose 30 per cent over the

same period of 1993 to 6.1

billion rand (\$1.71 billion).

While imports were 27 per

cent up at 9.1 billion rand

(\$2.55 billion).

South Africa's major ex-

ports to the EU include fruit,

minerals and in particular

coal and base metals, di-

amonds, gold, platinum and

tin and manganese.

Major imports include

machinery, mechanical ap-

pliance, with chemicals, vehi-

cles, vehicle components,

base metals and high-tech

equipment close behind.

Mr. Fouere said the latest

concessions were designed to

help diversify South African

exports to Europe.

Despite the concessions

IMF Africa

would want to see transparency in the institutions. "They are created and we are members. Our contributions should they should not be to us."

World Bank, members of Zimbabwe's government due to end her ordinary Zimbabwean by high taxes have become increasingly irritated and voice the government's restraint in its spending. Mugabe's government is already spending 50 per cent of annual domestic product — one of the highest in the world — of the money funded by the civil service companies.

es rship

Oman, Qatar and Arab Emirates — members to GATT and we have now joined the application study but Oman is in greater access to markets, GCC states under pressure from partners such as Spain Union to join if they wished to be in preferential

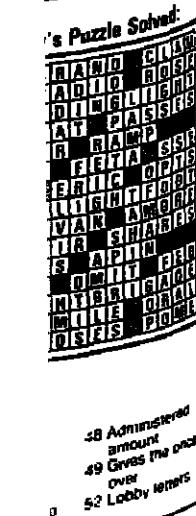
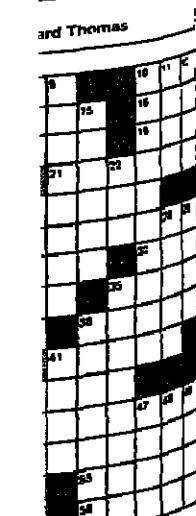


A man helps an old woman to stand up while other people shout in panic Friday as special OMON soldier drags an arrested demonstrator from the White House along the Moscow streets. Below, an OMON soldier drags an arrested demonstrator.



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ASEAN seeks 10-year extension of preferential trade with U.S.

MANILA (AP) — The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has sought a further 10 years of preferential trading with the United States, saying lost revenues from lower tariffs would be offset by increased U.S. exports to the region, Philippine officials said Friday.

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) extended to developing countries such as those in ASEAN — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — expires on Sept. 30 after a 15-month extension.

The six ASEAN ambassadors to Washington urged in a letter sent to

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Kantor that the GSP be extended for 10 more years instead of five years as proposed by the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton, Foreign Department officials said.

Four of the largest beneficiaries of GSP are Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Bangkok.

A GSP renewal will be included in legislation to implement the Uruguay Round agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to be drafted by the U.S. Congress, department officials said.

"We understand there are budget considerations,

but we would like to point out that security provided to beneficiary country producers and U.S. importers by a 10-year renewal is an extremely valuable feature," said the letter, copies of which were made available here Friday.

"As economies of the beneficiaries grow, so do opportunities for exporters, importers, and investors in the industrialised world," the letter said.

Foreign Department officials said ASEAN fears the prospects of \$12 billion in U.S. revenue losses due to the Uruguay Round agreement could prompt the U.S. Congress to opt for a shorter extension period.

U.S. computer market heading for price war

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's number one personal computer manufacturer, Compaq Computer, has announced drastic price cuts that analysts said might be the first salvo in a new computer price war.

Experts predict the shakeup, expected to be in full swing this fall, will go beyond the computer industry and affect all branches of the electronics market, from components to state-of-the-art interactive compact disc players.

Compaq slashed prices on its computers from seven to 22 per cent in a dynamic bid to increase its share of the market but it left the margin on its most recent models intact.

The highest price cuts were registered on the least powerful models from the ProLinea series, which are slated to be upgraded in the near future, analysts from Dataquest Inc. and International Data Corp. said.

Compaq dropped prices on its older models after having registered the highest profit margin in the market — 8.4 per cent — in the second quarter and with shares valued at \$2.2 billion as of June 30.

The computer manufacturer, based in Houston, Texas, also dropped prices on computers using the Pentium microchip by seven per cent in line with reduced component costs.

Compaq officials denied however that they were seeking to provoke a price war or that they were hoping to get rid of their older models.

"The only reason we are doing this is to reposition ourselves for the busiest buying time of the year," autumn, said deputy director of sales, Gian Carlo Bisone.

"This is not an inventory fire sale. It's not to start any

war," he added.

Compaq ranked first in computer sales for the United States in two consecutive quarters, outpacing rival giants IBM and Apple Computer, according to Dataquest.

It had 14.3 per cent of the U.S. market share, Apple held 11.2 per cent, Packard Bell Electronics 9.3 per cent and IBM, 7.9 per cent.

Compaq outranked IBM as the world's number one computer manufacturer last year.

Apple, which was number one in the U.S. market up until this year, launched a new series of pocket computers, Power PC, in March in a bid to regain its market share.

Apple officials refused to comment on the Compaq price cuts.

IBM was expected to be directly affected by the move as it is already tackling a major overhaul of its personal computers division and hopes to launch a new line of models this fall.

"IBM is committed to being competitive and responsive to the market changes," IBM spokesman Mike Reiter said, adding: "We will remain competitive."

Intel, which manufactures the Pentium microchip, was to announce a price cut of up to 40 per cent on its products, according to Business Week.

Qatar Airways want seven new planes

DOHA (R) — Qatar Airways is to acquire seven new aircraft to serve routes it plans to open in the next few months, its chief executive has said.

"Four of the new aircraft we propose to acquire will be 100-seaters for short hauls in the Gulf and neighbouring countries and three will be wide-bodied for long-range international routes," Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Bin Jaber Al Thani told Reuters.

He said the airline, set up eight months ago, was weighing the options of either leasing or buying the new planes.

"We want to strengthen our position to become a major international player in Gulf aviation," he said.

Qatar Airways currently flies to 10 destinations in Asia, Africa and Europe with two Airbus A-310s and a Boeing 737.

New flights to Beirut, Damascus, Athens and Fujaishah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are planned for September. Another flight to Ajman in the UAE will start in August.

Vietnam clinches three major rice export contracts

HANOI (AP) — Vietnam has secured long-term rice export contracts with Malaysia, Brazil and the United States, which could be a major boost for this stagnating sector, a report said Saturday.

Minister of Agriculture and food industry, Nguyen Cong Tan, was quoted as saying that his ministry and the ministry of commerce had reached agreement on "stable rice exporting contracts" which Vietnam can honour in the long run.

Mr. Tan said Vietnam had signed a contract to export 500,000 tonnes of rice annually to Malaysia for the next five years, according to a report in Ho Chi Minh city's youth newspaper Tuoi Tre.

Mr. Tan added that another deal had been clinched with Brazil, which has agreed to buy 300,000 tonnes of rice from Vietnam, and stressed that the United States are expected to buy in the region of 700,000 tonnes of Vietnamese rice a year.

U.S. trading firm, American Rice, recently signed a deal to buy 300,000 tonnes or more of Vietnamese rice a year for the next three decades.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Australia's Perkins responds to chasing Kiwis



Australian Melissa Carlton (right) is congratulated by teammate Kelly Barnes (centre) for

winning the women's disabled 100 metres freestyle Friday (AFP photo)

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Australia's long distance swimmer star, Kieren Perkins, isn't used to having people catch up with him.

When he saw two New Zealanders trying to stop him winning his first Commonwealth Games gold medal in the 200 metres freestyle, the 800 and 1,500 specialist did something new.

He had to sprint.

Perkins went out fast and had a clear halfway lead before New Zealanders Trent Bray and Danyon Loader made their late moves.

"I breathe on my right side and, during the third 50, I could see Trent right by me," Perkins said. "That was something I knew wasn't good for me and, at the third turn, I saw Danyon approaching.

"I put my head down and went for it. I don't think I breathed much over the last 25," said Perkins, who also competes in the three longer events here, 400, 800 and 1,500. "When I touched, I had absolutely no idea where I had finished."

"I have been working hard on sprinting in the last couple of months and my strength in the water has improved," said Perkins, who also is Olympic champion at 1,500.

"I'm really not a 200 swimmer but I was feeling more confident about the way I would swim the 200 this time."

Perkins' 1 minute, 49.31 seconds beat the previous games mark of 1:49.58, set by Australia's Martin Roberts at Auckland four years ago.

Bray took second in 1:49.47 and Loader won the bronze in 1:49.53, both inside the previous games record.

The opening day of action certainly belonged to Australia, which hoped for even more success Saturday in swimming and shooting.

As well as winning four golds in the pool, the Australians triumphed in the men's and women's team cycling time trials, Christine Trefry

and Annette Woodward won the pistol pairs and Kim Frazer and Sylvia Purdie were first in women's smallbore rifle prone pairs.

Australia's Philip Adams and Bengt Sandstrom won the men's free pistol pairs.

The Canadians triumphed in men's team gymnastics and Jean-Francois Senecal and Wayne Sorenson won the men's air rifle pairs for the host nation.

Saturday saw the first driving medals and finals in wrestling as well as four swim finals, the men's 100 butterfly and 400 individual medley, and women's 200 freestyle

and 200 breaststroke. Perkins was one of four Australians who won gold medals in the first five events in the pool. Make that five out of six if you include the first disabled Commonwealth Games swimming race, a 100 freestyle won by Melissa Carlton.

Phil Rogers edged England's Nick Gillingham to win the 100 metres breaststroke title in 1:02.62. Gillingham, who put in a late spurt, was only 0.03 behind at the finish with Canada's Jon Cleveland, who won the 200-metre title in Auckland four years ago.

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third in 1:03.20.

In the women's 400 metre individual medley, one Australian replaced another as Commonwealth champion.

Elli Overton, born across the water in Vancouver but an Australian citizen, ousted Hayley Lewis as titlist with a powerful performance.

The Australians were expected to make a sweep of the medals in this event but Canada's Nancy Sweetman, who won the 200 medley gold four years ago, split Overton and Lewis with another Australian, Julie Major, fourth.

Overton clocked 4:44.01.

Sweetman had 4:46.20 and Lewis, who later collected gold in the 800-metre freestyle relay, took bronze in 4:46.62.

The only gold medal the Australians didn't win in the pool went to England's Karen Pickering in the women's 100 freestyle.

Pickering set a games record in winning the women's 100-metre freestyle title in 56.20.

Australia's Karen van Wirdum, who set the previous record in Auckland four years ago, also beat her previous mark of 56.48 by clocking 56.42. Marianne Limpert of Canada won the bronze in 56.54.

Van Wirdum had another reason to feel happy.

"I proposed to my boyfriend in a television interview immediately afterward," she said. "He had better say yes."

2nd round of U-18 basketball championship kicks off today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four teams return to action Sunday in the second round of the under-18 basketball competition, one of over 12 annual competitions organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Jazireh, Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi and Al Abbas are the top contenders for the season's basketball titles.

Al Jazireh clinched their first trophy of the season

when they overcame Al Ahli to win the U-22 championship while Al Orthodoxi won the U-16 competition

and regained the women's title after titleholders Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the competition last month citing technical irregularities and off-hand approach by the JBF.

Al Jazireh, sponsored by Aramex, are a growing powerhouse in Jordanian basketball. In addition to the women's title last year they also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division, and fourth in the under-19 competition.

Al Abbas are the newest face in top level competition. Though a second division club, they seem set to become one of the most active of the JBF's members, and have registered to play in most of the age-group competitions.

Al Orthodoxi, who dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene throughout the 1980s, are now aiming to regain their former glory which they handed to Al Ahli by losing the country's most prestigious basketball title — the first division championship.

Al Ahli ended their reign in 1990 and went on to win the title in 1992 and 1993.

Al Orthodoxi's basketball coaches are now preparing a younger lineup of players who are already giving other teams a hard time, proving that their club is still a powerhouse to be reckoned with.

Simpson defence challenges all DNA testing, TV movie delayed

LOST ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyer sent a letter to the trial judge Friday challenging DNA testing on blood drops being analysed as evidence possibly linking the former football star to the killings of his ex-wife and her friend.

The letter contended that samples sent to a laboratory may have been mislabelled.

A hearing on DNA evidence had been previously scheduled for Monday.

In the letter, lead attorney Robert Shapiro asks superior court judge Lance Ito to determine whether integrity of blood samples "has already been compromised by mislabeling, cutting, switching and other discrepancies to such an extent that the results of testing will be inadmissible."

Shapiro said he wants the court to determine the precise quantity of blood evidence available for testing, and he requested to know all people involved in obtaining, storing, cutting and preparing the samples sent to Celmark Diagnostics in Maryland. He also said he wanted to know all people previously in-

solved in handling samples. The samples form a core of scientific evidence that could help convict or clear Simpson in the killings of Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and Ronald Goldman, 25. The tests sometimes take months to complete.

Shapiro wouldn't comment on preliminary DNA results.

Other developments Friday:

— CBS news said prosecu-

tors are looking into Brian "Kato" Kaelin's testimony, based on reports that he told his friends more than he said on the witness stand. Kaelin testified that he heard three loud, alarming knocks on his bedroom wall the night of the murders.

— KCBS-TV also reported

Friday night that the testi-

mony of two key witnesses

has not yet been presented in open court. Two men walk-

ing on Bundy drive, near the condominium where the bodies were found, say they saw a black man arguing with a white man around 10 p.m.

Prosecutors have claimed the two were killed at about 10:15 p.m. on June 12, while Simpson's lawyers have tried to show it happened up to 45 minutes later.

Klinsmann scores for Tottenham, carried off injured

LONDON (AP) — German World Cup star Jürgen Klinsmann scored a debut winner and was then stretchered from the field as Spurs beat Sheffield Wednesday 4-3 in a drama-packed opening to the Premiership.

Born-again Liverpool thrashed Crystal Palace 6-1, champions Manchester United beat QPR 2-0 with both sides down to 10-men and Arsenal ran out 3-0 winners over 10-man Manchester City.

Spurs, who struggled to avoid the drop and have since been hammered by the Football Association for financial irregularities, showed all of their fighting spirit away to Wednesday.

Teddy Sheringham broke the deadlock after 19 minutes and Darren Anderton added a second on the half-hour.

But Wednesday struck

back in the second half levelling through Romanian Dan Petrescu and an own goal by Colin Calderwood only for future England star Nick Barmby to put Spurs back in front.

Klinsmann, the two million pound signing from Monaco, made it 4-2 in the 82nd minute with a headed goal on his debut, but was stretchered off after a clash of heads with Des Walker a few minutes later.

The drama wasn't over as David Hirst scored Wednesday's third but Spurs hung on grimly for their win.

Assistant manager Steve Perryman said Klinsmann needed "nine or 10 stitches in his mouth and has slight concussion. But he's joking now and he's very happy."

Another man to be satisfied was Manchester United's Alex Ferguson. But Wednesday struck

two minutes. Alan Smith, who got the Guenner winner over Parma in Copenhagen, added the second and Ian Wright completed the rout in the 76th minute.

City had Uwe Rosier sent off late in the second-half for a second bookable offence.

Along with Spurs, it was a good day for some of last season's other strugglers, with Liverpool giving newly-promoted Palace a 6-1 hiding at Selhurst Park.

Liverpool, relegation candidates at one stage last season, opened the scoring with a 12th minute penalty converted by Jan Molby. Steve McManaman added the second two minutes later and Robbie Fowler made it 3-0 just before the break.

Palace's misery was compounded by having their pre-season signing from Stock-

port County, £350,000 striker Andy Preece, stretchered off in the opening minutes.

The Londoners pulled one back through Chris Armstrong but Liverpool skipper Ian Rush struck twice and McManaman once again to put the issue beyond doubt.

Fellow strugglers Southampton and Everton also had reason to be satisfied with their draws.

The Saints tamed Blackburn's eight million pound strike force of Alan Shearer and newbie Chris Sutton, and even enjoyed a 1-0 lead at half-time after Matthew Le Tissier sent a beautiful 40-yard pass through.

Just as important was a penalty save by Southampton's Bruce Grobelaar, making his debut after leaving Liverpool and defying England centre forward Shearer.

In the women's 100m, Torrance ran the second best time of the season in 10.83 seconds, easily beating Jamaica's Merlene Ottey into second place. Favourite Priyavara, who beat Torrance in Zurich and won the European Championship last week, was third.

After winning a highly-charged 100 metres in Zurich Wednesday, Powell provided the best drama, with a winning come-from-behind jump over compatriot Karen Streete-Thompson to keep a perfect record in the Golden Four meets. Powell confirmed his supremacy over Americans Dennis Mitchell and Jon Drummond in a time of 10.03 seconds even though he was slow out of the blocks. Once the veteran was fully upright, he ran away from the field in the last 50 metres.

Jackson cruised to an easy win in the 110 metres hur-

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Corretja upsets Edberg at hardcourt championships

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Third-seeded Stefan Edberg, describing his play as lethargic, was upset Friday by unseeded Alex Corretja of Spain in the RGA championships, leaving only one seeded player left for the semifinals.

Edberg lost 1-6, 6-2, 6-4, leaving seventh-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa the only seed left at the Indianapolis Tennis Center.

"I had no legs today," said Edberg, who less than 18 hours earlier looked good in a victory over Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

"I was one step too slow today, almost two steps from where I was last night. I think yesterday's match took a lot out of me more than I thought coming back today in the heat."

The victory over Edberg, currently no. 4 in the world, continued a dream week for the 20-year-old Corretja, who is in his first hardcourt

tournament of the year. He earlier beat fifth-seeded Jim Courier and 12th-seeded Andrea Gaudenzi.

Corretja noticed that Edberg was tiring at the end of the first set, which was dominated by the Swede.

"I saw him moving not so well, and I have to take this chance because you never know, maybe I can never beat him again. So today I had to take my chances," Corretja said.

Earlier, Ferreira posted a straight-set victory over Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the semifinals, where he will face Corretja.

In the only match of the day between seeded players, Ferreira jumped off to a good start and never looked back.

"These are the matches that I tend to let the person back in, even though he is not playing well," Ferreira said. "But today I cut him off really quickly, which is good," Stark said.

Baseball walkout's 1st week takes toll

NEW YORK (AP) — Major league baseball's players strike began a second week Friday with more layoffs, more concern and a possible future in Japan for baseball's highest-paid player.

Milie Bonilla, the wife of New York Mets' third baseman Bobby Bonilla, said with a smile she has set a deadline for her husband to resume playing.

"I told Bobby I will give it two years. If they haven't settled by then, he has got to go to play in Japan," she said.

Bonilla makes \$5.7 million this season, having already lost \$249,180 for cancelled games. Through Friday, 103 games had been wiped out, making this the second-longest strike in the sport after the 1981 player walkout that lasted 50 days.

George W. Bush, the son of former U.S. President

George Bush and the managing partner of the Texas Rangers, said he expects no World Series to be played this year.

"I hope I'm wrong, but I doubt it," said Bush, who hopes to be elected governor of Texas in November. "It looks like...long extended labour negotiations and I am very worried about it."

Talks are scheduled to resume Tuesday or Wednesday at the request of a government mediator. But there is little room for a compromise.

Owners want to impose reduced salary limits while players want to keep payrolls the same. The average salary is \$1.2 million but the median salary paid to a mid-level player is just over \$500,000.

Charities that sell food, tickets, parking spaces and souvenirs have already been hit by the strike.

Demaria sets fastest time in Japan GP

SUZUKA, Japan (AP) — Yves Demaria of France set the fastest time here Saturday in the penultimate round of the world 250cc motocross championship series, preceding Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

"I can sleep better than other guys tonight," said 22-year-old Demaria, who steered his Honda to clock two minutes 01.369 seconds to take the best starting position.

"I came to Japan, of course, to win again. I'd like to confirm that I can win again, to confirm if I'm strong like Greg (Albertini) and Stefan (Everts). The lap time yesterday was also good and today it's perfect."

The Frenchman, who stepped up to the 250cc class this season and has won four races so far, has a narrow chance of overtaking.

Kurt Nicoll of Britain was the second fastest in 2801.652 on the 1,900-metre (1.19-mile) course, followed by Andrea Bartolini of Italy in 2:02.620.



Rattanapol retains IBF title

BURIRAM, Thailand (AP) — International Boxing Federation (IBF) mini-flyweight champion Rattanapol Sor-Vorapin of Thailand knocked out Marcelino Bolivar of Venezuela in the fourth round here Saturday.

Bolivar was given another eight-count in mid-third round.

The fourth round was a one-sided affair. The Thai champion sent his Venezuelan challenger to the canvas to receive eight counts twice and finally a knockout count at the third fall.

Rattanapol improved his fight record to 19 wins, including 14 knockouts, one draw, and two losses, while Bolivar's record turned 17 wins, including 16 knockouts, and three losses.

Stich, Becker advance in Volvo International

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)

— No. 1 seed Michael Stich dropped a set for the first time in the Volvo International but still beat no. 8 Patrick Rafter 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 Friday in a tournament disrupted by rain for a third straight day.

Stich will play in an all-German semifinal with no. 3 Boris Becker, who advanced later with a 6-2, 6-4 win over no. 11 Matival Washington in a match completed after a delay of nearly 2 1/2 hours.

"I'm surprised your German colleagues are not here already," Becker joked to reporters about the interest in his country. "They may come tomorrow morning. Fly in overnight."

In the only upset of the day, no. 7 Marc Rosset beat Andrei Medvedev, the no. 2 seed and defending champion, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (6-4), in a match that didn't end until 11:35 p.m. because of the disrupted schedule.

No. 6 Yevgeny Kafeljukov was leading unseeded Marc Goettler 7-6 (7-2), 5-7, 3-1 when play was stopped at 4 p.m. The match was suspended until Saturday to make room on a lighted court for Stich's doubles match.

Stich was leading Rafter 6-2, 5-4 when his early match, which started 2 1/2 hours late because of the first rain-delay

of the day, was stopped after it started to rain again.

After a 15-minute delay, Stich lost his service and the set. But he broke Rafter early in the third and went on to become the first player to advance to the semifinal before play was suspended a third time.

Play resumed about 5:30 p.m. for the start of the match between Becker and Washington. Becker held a 3-0 lead when play was suspended a fourth time about 6 p.m., finishing him off after a 2 1/2 hour delay.

Becker and Stich will meet for the ninth time. The two last met at Stuttgart in February, with Becker winning the match to take a 5-3 lead in the series.

The Volvo tournament, which has endured rain delays every year since moving to New Haven from Stratton Mountain, VT, in 1990, was disrupted by two rain delays Wednesday and another one Thursday.

Stich has yet to play a match that hasn't been interrupted.

His opening match against Marcelo Rios in the second round was suspended because of rain Wednesday and resumed the next day. His match Thursday was delayed 5 1/2 minutes when an emergency alarm was accidentally tripped.

Stich, meanwhile, seemed to get the breaks at the net.

"That's just the way it goes," Rafter said. "I know Michael can sometimes be a little lazy, and I was hoping that would happen today. But he was on the top of his game."

Stich didn't fare as well after Friday's delay as he had during his first two interrupted matches, both of which he finished off in straight sets.

Rafter held service to tie the second set 5-5, then broke Stich for the first time of the match in the 11th game, chasing down a couple of drop shots that didn't seem reachable.

"It's not my fault I lost that set," Stich said. "He played really well."

After losing the set, Stich regrouped quickly and broke Rafter twice in the final set. Stich said breaking Rafter early was crucial because of the way Rafter closed out the middle set.

"That was very important," Stich said. "I made three return winners and he made a simple mistake."

Rafter had a good game, always getting to the right place at the right time. But he struggled to clear the net on his returns, hitting it several times for many of his unforced errors.

Stich, meanwhile, seemed to get the breaks at the net.

"I was a little bit nervous at the beginning of the match and Stich was playing very well," Graf said.

"But I thought I could get back into it if I just kept the ball in play and waited for the right moment to attack. Then, it finally came in the eighth game."

"I was attacking and doing exactly what I wanted. Then, she started to come back and

Graf, Pierce, Date, Sanchez Vicario advance in Matinee

Montreal (AP) — Steffi Graf slugged off a poor start and won the final 11 games to beat Gabriela Sabatini 7-5, 6-0 late Friday in a quarter-final match in the Matinee international tournament.

The top-seeded Graf, whose sore back caused her to stop play twice for treatment Wednesday, started slowly against Sabatini, training 5-2 at one point with Sabatini serving at 30-love.

"I was attacking and doing exactly what I wanted. Then, she started to come back and

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
Tivoli Music Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♦A♦J♦0 3 ♦2♦Q♦J♦2 ♦Q♦A♦6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Your hand is not quite good enough to bid game, and you're not even sure four is safe. You should bid the right game—partner might have mixed with three hearts and four (or even five) spades. Therefore, we would make a game try with two spades.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♦K♦7♦5 2♦A♦K♦J♦2 ♦Q♦A♦6

What is your opening bid?

A.—We have great respect for the trick-taking power of hands with 6-5 distributions—so much so that we did choose to open with a one-round bid rather than a two-round bid.

Even vulnerable that high-level preempt should be the winning option more often than not.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South

you hold:

♦Q♦3 2♦9♦6 7♦K♦10♦4 ♦Q♦J♦5

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—In the immediate seat no action could be considered over an opposing opening bid. However, experience has shown that it is losing tactics to allow the opposition to play unopposed at the one or two-level. In the balance, pre-empt, therefore, we would respond by bidding two clubs, with one no trump as a second choice.

Q.4—As South vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♦K♦6 2♦10♦4 9♦A♦3 ♦Q♦10♦6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 NT Pass ?

A.—Partner's raise to two no trump is bidirectional, asking you to bid one if you have the top of your range for your first response.

Since you could hardly have more, bid three no trump.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♦K♦6 2♦10♦4 9♦A♦3 ♦Q♦10♦6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 NT Pass ?

A.—Partner's raise to two no trump is bidirectional, asking you to bid one if you have the top of your range for your first response.

Since you could hardly have more, bid three no trump.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♦K♦6 2♦10♦4 9♦A♦3 ♦Q♦10♦6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 NT Pass ?

A.—Partner's raise to two no trump is bidirectional, asking you to bid one if you have the top of your range for your first response.

Since you could hardly have more, bid three no trump.

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♦K♦6 2♦10♦4 9♦A♦3 ♦Q♦10♦6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 NT Pass ?

A.—Partner's raise to two no trump is bidirectional, asking you to bid one if you have the top of your range for your first response.

Since you could hardly have more, bid three no trump.

Q.8—Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♦K♦6 2♦10♦4 9♦A♦3 ♦Q♦10♦6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 NT Pass ?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait urged to be realistic on population

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's failure to achieve its goal of balanced numbers of Kuwaitis and foreigners has damaged the credibility of the government and shows the need for a realistic population policy, economists said on Saturday. "It is not important to announce idealistic targets, rather to produce studies that are feasible and of good quality," the Al Shall economic consultancy said in a weekly commentary. Official figures published this month show Kuwaitis now number 38 per cent of the growing 1.77 million population, down from 43 per cent of a total 1.5 million a year ago. Stung by what it saw as disloyalty by some foreigners, especially Palestinians, during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, the government said it would never again allow non-Kuwaitis to become a minority in their own country.

Thai premier chides Saudi envoy

BANGKOK (AFP) — Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has chided a Saudi envoy here for criticising Thailand's inability to quickly resolve the \$20 million theft of gems from Saudi Arabia, news reports said Saturday. Following accusations by Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja that the government is covering up Thai police involvement in the crime, Mr. Chuan told local reporters that Mr. Khoja should let the authorities handle the case according to Thai legal procedures. "This is not an easy case," Mr. Chuan said. "And the government, in particular, does not want to do anything superficial to simply get rid of the issue." The case involves the 1989 theft of 90 kilogrammes of jewellery from the palace of a Saudi prince by a Thai servant. The Thai was arrested after fleeing to Bangkok, but only about 30 per cent of the gems were returned. The Saudis say they suspect the Thai police kept some of the loot, and add that much of the returned jewelry was fake.

Algeria's TV starts satellite broadcasting

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's television and radio channels began broadcasting on Saturday by satellite in the direction of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Algiers Radio said. Broadcasting is conducted via Eutelsat.

8 tribesmen killed in Iran clash

TEHRAN (AFP) — Revolutionary Guards militiamen have killed eight suspected members of a gang of bandits and drug traffickers in southeastern Iran, the official news agency IRNA reported Saturday. The tribesmen belonging to the Narwi tribe in Sistan va Baluchestan province were killed in an operation in the Gavheh-Bareh region, it said without giving a date. Several suspects escaped but the security forces seized a large amount of ammunition and vehicles. IRNA said last week that nine members of the same tribe had been killed in clashes with security forces in Sistan va Baluchestan. The Narwi, one of the province's main tribes, are at war with the authorities.

Hizbollah blasts house of rival faction

TYRE (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas dynamited a house in South Lebanon wounding eight people in a revenge attack on its rival Shi'ite movement Amal, security official said Saturday. Hizbollah men surrounded the house late Friday in Bir Al Salasel, east of the port city and about 80 kilometres south of Beirut, after an earlier clash in the village between armed men belonging to the rival factions. They blew up the house wounding four men, two women and two children who were taken to hospital. A joint delegation of Amal, Hizbollah and Lebanese army officials visited the village on Saturday on a mission to restore calm, the security officials added. Amal, which is close to Syria, and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah fought deadly battles in Beirut and southern Lebanon in 1987 and 1988 during Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

Iran plans 2,200 weddings to mark holy occasion

NICOSIA (AP) — Some 2,200 young couples will be married in mass weddings in nine provinces across Iran next week during celebrations marking the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday. The Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, a charity established in the name of the Islamic republic's late founder, announced that it was financing and arranging the weddings to be held Aug. 25-28. It also was providing dowry for the brides.

Velayati in Syria for meeting on Iraq

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Saturday for three-way talks with his Turkish and Syrian counterparts on the situation in Iraq. The official Syrian news agency SANA said he was welcomed by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. Turkey's Mumtaz Soysal was also expected to attend the meeting Sunday. All three countries border Iraq and carefully monitor the situation there, especially the breakaway northern part under Kurdish control since 1991. Hundreds of people have been killed since May in fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. SANA said the talks, which are held twice a year in one of the three countries, would also deal with "regional questions and cooperation." They were postponed twice after originally being set for July. The latest temporary ceasefire in northern Iraq between Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and forces loyal to Masud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) was broken on Tuesday.

U.S. Navy rescues Egyptian sailors

DUBAI (R) — A U.S. Navy ship on Saturday rescued 10 Egyptian sailors who drifted for nine days in a lifeboat in the Arabian Sea after their cargo ship sank, the Navy said. The crew of the Salem 12 abandoned ship as it sank on Aug. 11 but no word of the disaster came until Saturday after 15 of its 31 crewmen reached the Omani coast in lifeboats, the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain said in a statement. The U.S. supply ship, the Mars, picked up 10 more sailors from a lifeboat in choppy seas on Saturday after spotting signal flares, the statement said. Six men are still missing. "The survivors appeared to be in good condition, with only minor sun rashes. (They) said it had been seven days since they lost sight of the other lifeboats and they were down to one day's worth of food and water when sighted," it added. A navy spokesman said it was not yet known why the 9,000-tonne gross weight Egyptian ship had sunk or what its destination was.

Former Soviets held in brothel murders

FRANKFURT (R) — German police have arrested a married couple from the former Soviet Union on suspicion of strangling six people in a high-class Frankfurt brothel, a spokesman said on Saturday. The spectacular crime in a smart area of Germany's financial capital has drawn public attention to the large number of women from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union being brought to Germany to work as prostitutes, often against their will. The victims were the two Hungarian owners of the brothel and four prostitutes from the former Soviet Union. The suspects were been detained on Thursday morning at a hostel for ethnic German immigrants in southern Germany. Police declined to give the couple's full names but the mass-circulation daily Bild said they were both ethnic German immigrants from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

CIA helped capture Carlos, official says

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helped France capture Carlos, the accused international extremist, handed over to Paris by Sudan this week, an official said Friday.

The official, who asked to remain unidentified, said the U.S. agency "helped close the noose by steadily denying Carlos safe havens," adding that "tracking his movements was a key CIA contribution to the French suc-

cess."

The official declined to elaborate on any specific CIA actions but the New York Post reported that the CIA tipped off France in January that Carlos was in Sudan.

Known as Carlos the Jackal, 44-year-old Illich Ramirez Sanchez was turned over to France on Monday to face charges in the 1975 killings of two counter-intelligence officers and a 1982 Paris bombing.



Relief under way for Algeria quake area

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Rescue workers searching mountain villages levelled by an earthquake were still finding bodies two days after the catastrophe, raising the death toll to at least 171 people, the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

Heavily armed soldiers were assisting in the rescue operation around Mascara, in northwest Algeria, where Islamic extremists waging a war to bring down the government have carried out attacks in the past.

Tents, blankets, food and water were being ferried by trucks and helicopters to the area, 360 kilometres west of the capital for the estimated 10,000 people left homeless by Thursday's quake. Some of the supplies were parachuted into the mountainous region where access is difficult.

The main fundamentalist

party, the Islamic Salvation Front, was then at its height. It had been banned since March 1992 as part of a crackdown that triggered violence which has not abated since then.

Premier Mokdad Sifi said in a visit to the devastated region that the government would try to help the homeless rebuild their houses before winter, when the mountain temperatures turn bitterly cold.

Under a crushing summer heat, the homeless made their way to four principal cities that went up around the region.

Donations of blood for the injured were being collected around Algeria.

There was a clear effort by the military-backed government to take full control of the situation early on so that Muslim fundamentalists would not step in to fill the void. After the 1989 earthquake in Tipaza, outside Algiers, fundamentalists played a major role in organising relief operations.

No international request

for aid has been launched, and relief groups expressed wariness about sending teams

to the country, where 58 foreigners have been killed in the

past year by extremists.

The rebels hope to isolate

and topple the country's

military-backed regime, in-

stalled in a coup that robbed

a Muslim fundamentalist par-

ty of election victory in Janu-

ary 1992.

Most of the homeless spent

their second night outdoors

as there were not enough

tents to shelter them. A

thousand tents were dis-

tributed but authorities were

expecting another 4,000 or

5,000 tents to meet every-

one's needs.

The great majority of those

left homeless are refusing to

move away from their des-

trayed homes.

Food stocks in the area are

sufficient to cover the needs

for the next three days at

least, said a local official,

although food collections in

the region are still being

organised to bring them into

the quake zone.

Meanwhile in Mascara, the

Israeli-Palestinian talks on Jerusalem in Rabat

RABAT (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, meeting in the Moroccan city Casablanca, have clashed on the future of Jerusalem, the Moroccan press agency MAP said late Friday.

MAP said the Israeli position

in the Casablanca talks

on both the future of Jeru-

alem and the overall status

of the settlers was not dis-

closed.

The agency, citing an un-

named Palestinian source,

disclosed that "differences

emerged during the discus-

sions, notably on the Jeru-

alem question."

Palestinian delegates de-

nounced "Israeli actions and

statements on the future of

Jerusalem and its holy

sites," according to the source.

Israel has proclaimed a

unified Jerusalem as its "eter-

nal and undivided capital,"

while the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) sees

East Jerusalem as the capital

of a future Palestinian state.

The PLO was in addi-

tion upset by a July 25 agree-

ment between Jordan and Is-

rael

on the

status of

Jerusalem.

The Palestinian team here

has also put forward two

proposals, the presence of

Jewish settlers in the two

third holiest sites.

"Twenty-seven years after

occupying the city ...

the Israeli occupation authorities

still continue to execute its

design aimed at Judaizing

the city and obliterating its

Arab and Islamic image," a state-

ment by the Jeddah-based

OIC's secretary general,

Hamid Algabid, said.

Diana biographer writes new book of 'confidences'

LONDON (AFP) — Andrew

Morton, whose biography on

the Princess of Wales Diana:

Her True Story became a

world-wide bestseller, has

written a new book Diana:

Her new Life which should

be on sale by November,

according to the mass circula-

tion Sun newspaper. The

paper, which cites the book's

editor Michael O'Mara, said

its publication would coincide

with the publication of

another book concerning the

princess's estranged husband

and heir to the British

throne, Prince Charles, based

on a recently broadcast tele-

vision documentary in which

he admitted being unfaithful

to his wife. Mr. Morton's new

book, which claims to be

based on confidences re-

vealed by "some of Diana's

closest friends and advisors."

recounts "the secret battles